



LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD

Suite 1102, Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila 1000

LEB MEMORANDUM ORDER (LEBMO)

No: 7

Series of 2016

Subject: **POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A NATIONWIDE UNIFORM LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST FOR APPLICANTS TO THE BASIC LAW COURSES IN ALL LAW SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.**

Pursuant to the power of the Legal Education Board (LEB) to prescribe the minimum standards for law admission under Section 7(e) of Republic Act No. 7662, entitled the "Legal Education Reform Act of 1993", the following policies and regulations for the administration of a nationwide uniform law school admission test is hereby promulgated:

1. Policy and Rationale - To improve the quality of legal education, all those seeking admission to the basic law courses leading to either a Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor degree shall be required to take the Philippine Law School Admission Test (PhilSAT), a nationwide uniform admission test to be administered under the control and supervision of the LEB.
2. Test Design - The PhilSAT shall be designed as a one-day aptitude test that can measure the academic potential of the examinee to pursue the study of law. It shall test communications and language proficiency, critical thinking skills, and verbal and quantitative reasoning.
3. Qualified examinees - The following are qualified to take the PhilSAT:
 - a. Graduates of 4-years bachelor's degrees, or its equivalent, from duly recognized higher education institutions in the Philippines;
 - b. Those expecting to graduate with 4-years bachelor's degrees, or its equivalent, from duly recognized higher education institutions in the Philippines at the end of the school year when the PhilSAT was administered; and
 - c. Graduates from foreign higher education institutions with degrees equivalent to a 4-years bachelor's degree as certified by the Commission on Higher Education.

A qualified examinee may take the PhilSAT for as many times as he/she wants, without any limit.
4. Testing Administrator - For purposes of designing the examinations, formulating the questions, administering the tests, and correcting the answers, the LEB may designate, as testing administrator, an independent third-party testing provider that meets all the following qualifications:
 - a. Five (5) years experience in designing a government academic examination in the Philippines;
 - b. Three (3) years experience in administering an examination simultaneously in five (5) or more testing sites located in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao areas;
 - c. Three (3) years experience in designing, formulating and administering an admission test for law schools in the Philippines.

5. **Test Administration Schedule and Locations** - The PhilSAT shall be administered at least once a year on or before April 16 in testing centers located in Metro Manila, Baguio City, Legazpi City, Cebu City, Iloilo City, Davao City, and Cagayan de Oro City. Additional testing schedules and centers may be fixed by the LEB as necessary.
6. **Testing Fee** - The testing administrator shall be authorized to collect from every examinee such amount as to cover the cost and expenses for the development, design, and administration of the PhilSAT, which in no case shall exceed the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per examination, unless otherwise expressly permitted by the LEB.
7. **Passing Score** - The cut-off or passing score for the PhilSAT shall be FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT (55%) correct answers, or such percentile score as may be prescribed by the LEB.
8. **Test Results** - Every examinee who passed the PhilSAT shall be issued by the testing administrator a CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (COE), which shall contain the examinee's test score/rating and general average in the bachelor's degree completed. Examinees who fail to meet the cut-off or passing score shall be issued a Certificate of Grade containing his/her test score/rating. The COE shall be valid for two (2) years and shall be submitted to the admitting law school by the applicant.
9. **Admission Requirement** - All college graduates or graduating students applying for admission to the basic law course shall be required to pass the PhilSAT as a requirement for admission to any law school in the Philippines. Upon the effectivity of this memorandum order, no applicant shall be admitted for enrollment as a first year student in the basic law courses leading to a degree of either Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor unless he/she has passed the PhilSAT taken within 2 years before the start of studies for the basic law course and presents a valid COE as proof thereof.
10. **Exemption** - Honor graduates granted professional civil service eligibility pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 907 who are enrolling within two (2) years from their college graduation are exempted from taking and passing the PhilSAT for purposes of admission to the basic law course.
11. **Institutional Admission Requirements** - The PhilSAT shall be without prejudice to the right of a law school in the exercise of its academic freedom to prescribe or impose additional requirements for admission, such as but not limited to:
 - a. A score in the PhilSAT higher than the cut-off or passing score set by the LEB;
 - b. Additional or supplemental admission tests to measure the competencies and/or personality of the applicant; and
 - c. Personal interview of the applicant.
12. **Reportorial Requirement** - All law schools shall regularly submit to the LEB the following written reports in such form as may be prescribed by the LEB Chairman:
 - a. Within forty-five (45) days from the start of every semester or term, the names of the first year students admitted and enrolled for the first time in the basic law course and their PhilSAT scores;
 - b. Within sixty (60) days after the end of every semester or term, the subjects enrolled in by every first year student and the final grades received in said subjects.
13. **General Average** - Beginning in Academic/School Year 2018-2019, the requirement of a general average of not less than eighty percent (80%) or 2.5 for admission in the basic law course under Section 23 of LEB Memorandum Order No. 1, Series of 2011 shall be withdrawn and removed.



14. **Transitory Provision** - During the initial year only of the implementation of this memorandum order in Academic/School Year 2017-2018, the cut-off or passing score shall not be enforced, and law schools shall have the discretion to admit in the basic law courses, as first year students, applicants who scored less than 55% correct answers, provided, that the law dean shall submit to the LEB, together with the required report in Section 12(a) above, a written justification for each applicant below 55% explaining the reasons for admitting him/her and the general weighted average obtained of the applicant for his/her bachelor's degree.
15. **Sanctions** - Law schools violating this Memorandum Order shall imposed the administrative sanctions prescribed in Section 32 of LEBMO No. 2, Series of 2013 and/or fine of up to Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) for each infraction.
16. **Separability Clause** - If any part or provision of this memorandum order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions shall remain valid and effective.
17. **Repealing Clause** - All previous resolutions, memoranda, orders, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, that are contrary or inconsistent with this memorandum order, or provisions hereof, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
18. **Effectivity** - This LEBMO shall take effect fifteen (15) days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation and filing with the National Administrative Register in the UP Law Center.

Manila, Philippines. December 29, 2016.


EMERSON B. AQUENDE
Chairman