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Liberty University

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LU national bar passage rate is 89 percent

November 12, 2007 | Mitzi Bible

Liberty University School of Law has announced that 89 percent of its law graduates who took state bar exams nationwide passed them.

The 3-year-old LU law school graduated its first class in May.

The success of its graduates places the law school in the top 20 percent of all American Bar Association-approved law schools in the country with respect to bar passage rates.

LU law graduates took bar exams in 16 different states.

LU Law Dean Mat Staver said it is not unusual for a new law school to have a bar passage rate in the 30- to 40-percent range. A milestone in the history of a law school is when it reaches a bar passage rate of 70 percent.

In Virginia, the overall passage rate for all law schools was 71.97 percent.

The LU School of Law opened in August 2004 and received provisional ABA accreditation in February 2006. A factor in determining how fast a school receives permanent accreditation is how well its first graduating class does on the bar exam.

The law school's lawyering skills program is the most comprehensive in the country, combining the theory of law with the skills of law, Staver said.

Law students at Liberty have the opportunity to participate in many externship opportunities in law school. Some opportunities include real-life experience with judges, prosecutors, public defenders, legislators and policymakers, and business and corporate leaders.