



**AccessLex Building Bar Skills Initiative  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Building Bar Skills Module Teams**

**A. Scope of RFP**

This RFP is seeking up to six teams of two law school staff and/or faculty to work in collaboration with other teams and AccessLex Institute staff to develop AccessLex Institute Bar Skills Modules aligned with the Foundational Skills and Associated Learning Tasks<sup>1</sup> to be utilized on the NextGen bar exam. Module subjects sought include Business Associations, Constitutional Law, Evidence Law, Family Law, Sales (UCC), and Real Property Law.

**B. Building Bar Skills Modules Overview**

AccessLex Institute's Building Bar Skills Initiative provides Bar Skills Modules, to AccessLex member law schools, that are aligned with the skills targeted for assessment on the NextGen bar exam. These Bar Skills Modules equip law faculty with four to six hours of assignable formative assessment course materials. Module tasks include integrated question sets and performance tasks supplemented with professor guides, grading rubrics, student self-assessments, and model answers.

1. Bar Skills Module Development Teams

Module Building Teams (MBTs) consist of two people, drawn from either a law school's law skills faculty or staff or doctrinal faculty. Law skills faculty and staff may come from the areas of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Academic Success/Bar Prep, Client Counseling and Advising, Client Relationship and Management, Legal Clinics, Legal Writing and Legal Research, Mediation, and Negotiation. Doctrinal faculty should regularly teach a course in the NextGen-tested subject with which the bar skills module is aligned.<sup>2</sup> Members of each MBT must be affiliated with the same school. Members of each MBT must not be subject to competitor agreements including competitors of Helix Bar Review by AccessLex<sup>SM</sup>.

2. Important Program Dates

The following represents a tentative timeline associated with the Team program, including deliverables.

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<sup>1</sup> See National Conference of Bar Examiners, CONTENT SCOPE OUTLINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, available at <https://nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org/csopc-register/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 7 – 38. At this time the public comment draft of the NCBE's Content Scope Outlines lists the following doctrinal subjects as testable on the NextGen bar exam: Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Constitutional Protections of Accused Persons, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts.



TIME FRAME	TASK OR DELIVERABLE
<b>2024</b>	
April 17-May 31	Team application period
June	Teams selected
September 13	Teams attend a 1-day synchronous virtual workshop on drafting AccessLex Institute Bar Skills Modules.
November 11	Teams attend an in-person module development workshop in advance of AccessLex Institute’s annual conference, LexCon, in Salt Lake City, UT.
November 11-14	Teams attend AccessLex Institute’s annual Conference, LexCon, in Salt Lake City, UT to include a one-day team workshop
<b>2025</b>	
January 31	Draft of Bar Skills Modules due
Spring Semester	Teams ensure that students in a corresponding doctrinal course at their institution complete their Modules Teams collect feedback on Module use and reception from associated faculty and students
May 30	Final drafts of Bar Skills Modules due
June 1-July 31	Teams engage with AccessLex Institute staff on review and revisions of Bar Skills Modules
November	Teams attend LexCon (dates and location TBD) to present on their Bar Skills Modules and facilitate workshops on teaching law students skills in preparation for the NextGen bar exam

Continued engagement as a Module Building Team and receipt of full stipend amounts are contingent upon meeting the January 31, 2024 and May 30, 2025 Bar Skills Modules submission deadlines above. In addition to the above dates, Module Building Teams should strive to attend the majority of synchronous virtual one-hour cohort check-in meetings at 12:00 pm ET on October 18, December 13, 2024 and January 24, February 21, March 21 and April 18, 2025.

### C. Scope of Needed Services

The work of MBTs will center on the following tasks:

1. Creating Bar Skills Modules
2. Collaborating with fellow MBTs and AccessLex staff
3. Planning, presenting, and facilitating workshops at AccessLex Institute events, including LexCon 2025.

1. Creating Bar Skills Modules

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MBTs will be tasked with creating Bar Skills Modules, which includes the creation of:

- Detailed lesson plans and supporting materials for Bar Skills Modules that provide four to six hours of skills development coursework in a doctrinal subject to be tested on the NextGen bar exam.<sup>3</sup>
- A minimum of three formative assessment Modules that include integrated question sets and at least performance task utilizing Foundational Skills and Associated Lawyering Tasks<sup>4</sup> from the NextGen bar exam Content Scope Outline and requiring a law student written response of at least 500-words.
- Statements of student learning outcomes for the drafted skills Modules. These student learning outcomes should align with the skills developed in the formative assessment exercises and should identify the specific Foundational Skill and Associated Lawyer Task(s)<sup>5</sup> with which it is aligned.
- Rubrics that provide both meaningful and efficient law student feedback as well as measurement of student learning and ability on each formative assessment exercise.
- Written guidance for law faculty adopting the Modules, with commentary informed by the spring semester trial run of the modules at the MBT's institution.

## 2. Collaborating with Fellow MBTs and AccessLex Staff

MBTs will collaborate with fellow MBTs and AccessLex staff for the continued development and revision of Bar Skills Modules. Collaboration will occur remotely via virtual meetings and via responsive email communication, as well as at -in-person workshop, and virtual meetings detailed above. MBT members will consult with fellow teams on the development of fellow teams' Modules providing review and feedback on peer modules.

## 3. Planning, Presenting, and Facilitating Presentations and Workshops for AccessLex Institute on the Bar Skills Modules.

MBTs will collaborate with AccessLex staff in planning and presenting virtual and in-person workshops through November 31, 2025, including the November 2025 LexCon event.

## D. Stipend and Expenses

Subject to personal services agreements, each member of a Module Building Team will receive a stipend of \$10,000, disbursed in four payments. In addition, each member of a Module Building Team will receive

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*



a \$4,000 travel stipend to cover all travel and accommodations associated with their engagement as a Module Building Team member.

### **E. RFP Submission Requirements**

Responses to this RFP should include the following components:

- A narrative statement describing each applicant team member’s qualifications. Description of qualifications should state the skills area<sup>6</sup> and/or relevant doctrinal area<sup>7</sup> of specialty as well as summary of experience teaching, presenting, or developing courses in the area.
- Resumes/CVs of applicant team.
- A draft outline of one Module to be developed by the team, which should state:
  - The first-year, first-semester doctrinal subject associated with the skills Module.
  - The specific Foundational Skills and Associated Lawyering Tasks to be taught and applied in the skills Module as articulated in the NCBE’s Content Scope Outline of the NextGen bar exam.<sup>8</sup>
  - A brief description of two proposed skills exercises to be developed in the Module, and the possible student learning outcomes for these exercises.
- Confirmation that the team’s law school will offer the associated doctrinal subject during the Spring 2025 academic semester or quarters and affirmation that a faculty member teaching the course plans to refer students enrolled in the course to complete the Modules.
- Confirmation that both members of the application team are able to attend the Module Building Team virtual workshop on September 13, 2024, the November 11, 2024 in-person module development workshop and the November 12-14, 2024 LexCon event, and the November 2025 LexCon event. Dates and location for LexCon 2025 will be provided after November 16, 2024.

### **F. RFP Timeline**

Proposals must be submitted by May 31, 2024 to:

- Joel Chanvisanuruk, Senior Director, Programs for Academic and Bar Success, AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence<sup>®</sup>: [jchanvisanuruk@accesslex.org](mailto:jchanvisanuruk@accesslex.org)

\*Please place “Building Bar Skills Modules RFP” in the subject line.

### **G. Contact Information**

Please direct questions about this RFP or the Building Bar Skills Modules initiative to Joel Chanvisanuruk ([jchanvisanuruk@accesslex.org](mailto:jchanvisanuruk@accesslex.org)).

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<sup>6</sup> Alternative Dispute Resolution, Academic Success/Bar Prep, Client Counseling and Advising, Client Relationship and Management, Legal Clinics, Legal Writing and Legal Research.

<sup>7</sup> Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Constitutional Protections of Accused Persons, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts

<sup>8</sup> NCBE, *supra* note 1.