



# LEVERAGING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT SUCCESS

Presented by:

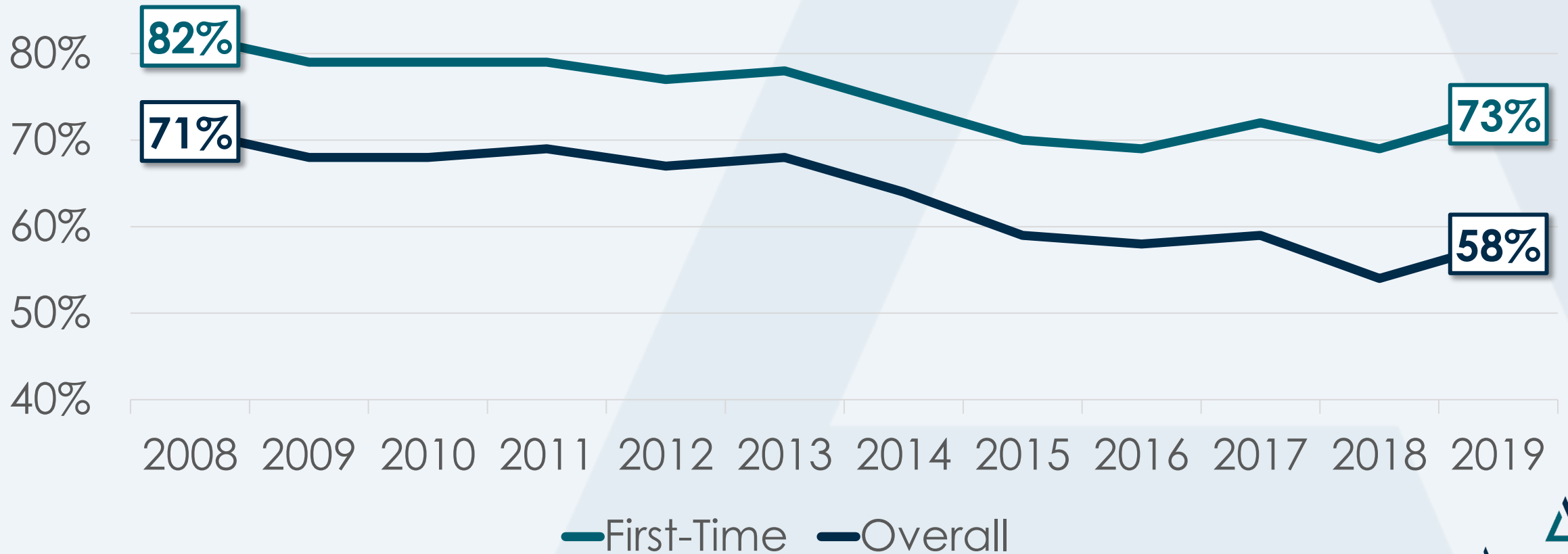
**AccessLex Institute® and  
Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE)**



# BAR PASSAGE IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

- Bar passage rates have been declining
- Changing ABA Standards

# BAR PASSAGE RATES REACHED THEIR LOWEST POINT IN A GENERATION IN 2018, BUT HAVE REBOUNDED SOMEWHAT IN 2019.



# REVISED ABA STANDARD 316

- “At least 75 percent of a law school’s graduates in a calendar year who sat for a bar examination must have passed a bar examination administered within two years of their date of graduation.”
- Initially, 10 schools were found not in compliance.
- The ABA’s Guidance Memo on the standard emphasizes the importance of assessing learning outcomes and of evaluating programs and instruction.

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Continue encouraging students from admission to admission.

Data shows it's not where you start, it's where you finish!

# WHAT IS “STUDENT ENGAGEMENT”?

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A holistic concept, encompassing “the choices and commitments of students, of individual faculty members, and of entire institutions.”

Alexander C. McCormick, Jillian Kinzie & Robert M. Gonyea, Student Engagement: Bridging Research and Practice to Improve the Quality of Undergraduate Education, in HIGHER EDUCATION: HANDBOOK OF THEORY AND RESEARCH 55 (M.B. Paulsen ed., 2013).

# ACCESSLEX/LSSSE BAR EXAM SUCCESS INITIATIVE



# ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Examines the extent to which “student engagement” influences academic performance and first-time bar exam passage

# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR

# THE FIRST PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

- Data from 4,700 2018 and 2019 graduates from 20 law schools
- Examined the relationships between:

## **BAR PASSAGE and**

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS  
LAW SCHOOL GPA  
UGPA AND LSAT**

## **LAW SCHOOL GPA and**

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS  
UGPA AND LSAT**

- Control variables: School, Cohort Year, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, UGPA, and LSAT

# 19 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS EXAMINED

<b>Learning to Think Like a Lawyer</b>	<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	<b>Student Advising</b>	<b>Law School Environment</b>	
<b>Broad Legal Education</b>	<b>Emphasis on Academics</b>	<b>Supportive Environment</b>	<b>School Satisfaction</b>	<b>Expected Loan Debt</b>
<b>Self-Care</b>	<b>Other (Non-Legal) Responsibilities</b>	<b>Real-World Legal Experience</b>	<b>Practical Skills Development</b>	<b>Peer Collaboration</b>
<b>Time Spent Preparing for Class</b>	<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>Preparation for Class</b>	<b>Added Diverse Classroom Perspectives</b>	<b>Challenging Coursework</b>

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS: LSSSE ENGAGEMENT INDICATORS

<b>LEARNING TO THINK LIKE A LAWYER</b>	Ability to think critically and analytically, and effectively process information from different contexts and frameworks
<b>LAW SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT</b>	Perceived law school environment and “fit” in that environment
<b>STUDENT ADVISING</b>	Perceived quality and quantity of advisory services (e.g., academic and career) offered
<b>STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTION</b>	Communication with faculty (e.g., receiving prompt feedback or assistance on projects) and the type of advice received (e.g., job search advice)

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS: OTHER COMPOSITE VARIABLES

<b>Broad Legal Education</b>	<b>Emphasis on Academics</b>	<b>Supportive Environment</b>	<b>School Satisfaction</b>	<b>Expected Loan Debt</b>
<b>Self-Care</b>	<b>Other (Non-Legal) Responsibilities</b>	<b>Real-World Legal Experience</b>	<b>Practical Skills Development</b>	<b>Peer Collaboration</b>
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# FROM PRE-ADMISSION TO FINAL YEAR, ACADEMIC INFORMATION PROVIDES A BASIS FOR MAKING BAR PASSAGE PREDICTIONS

LSAT score

UGPA

First-semester GPA

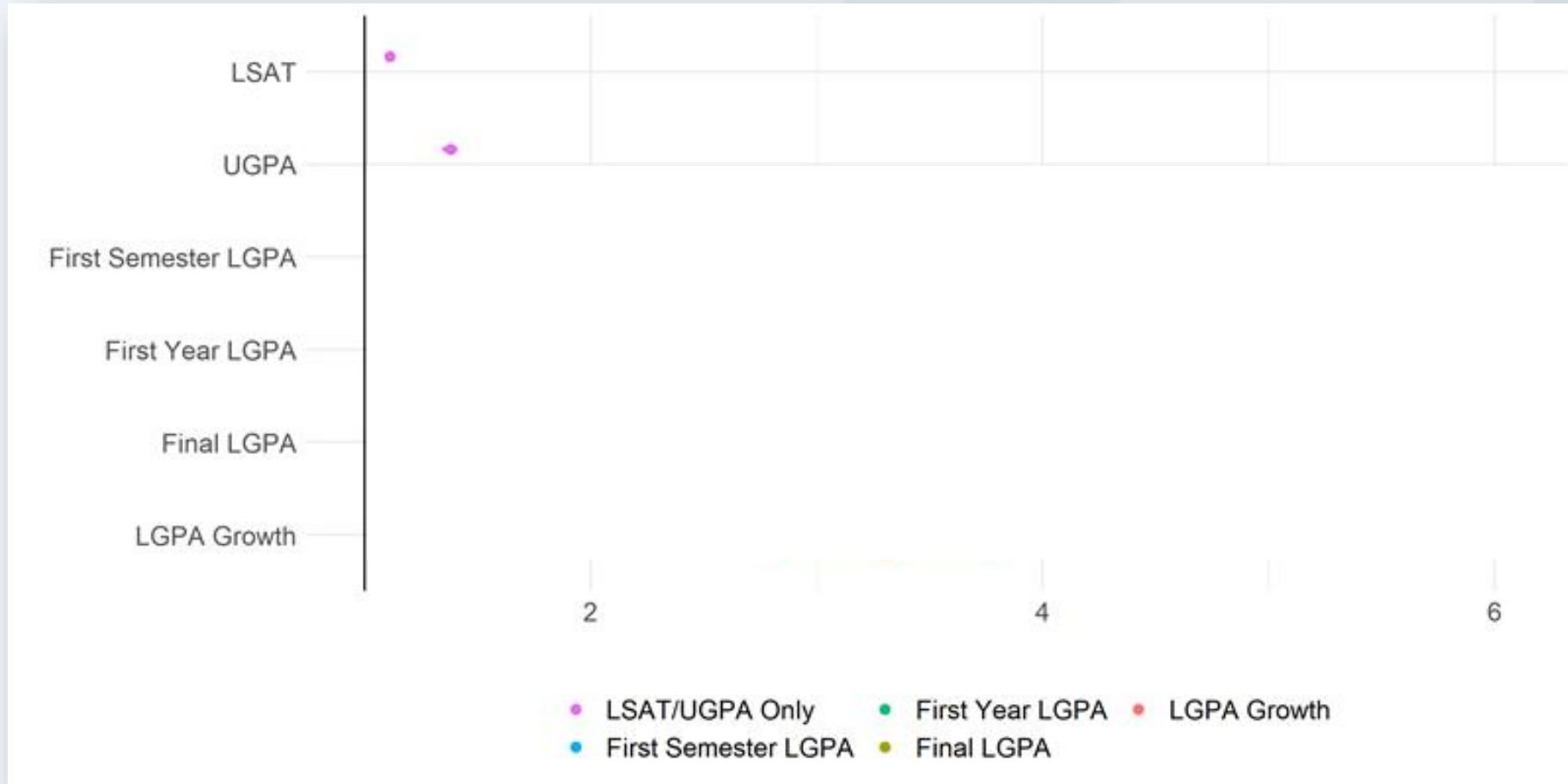
First-year GPA

Final GPA

LGPA growth

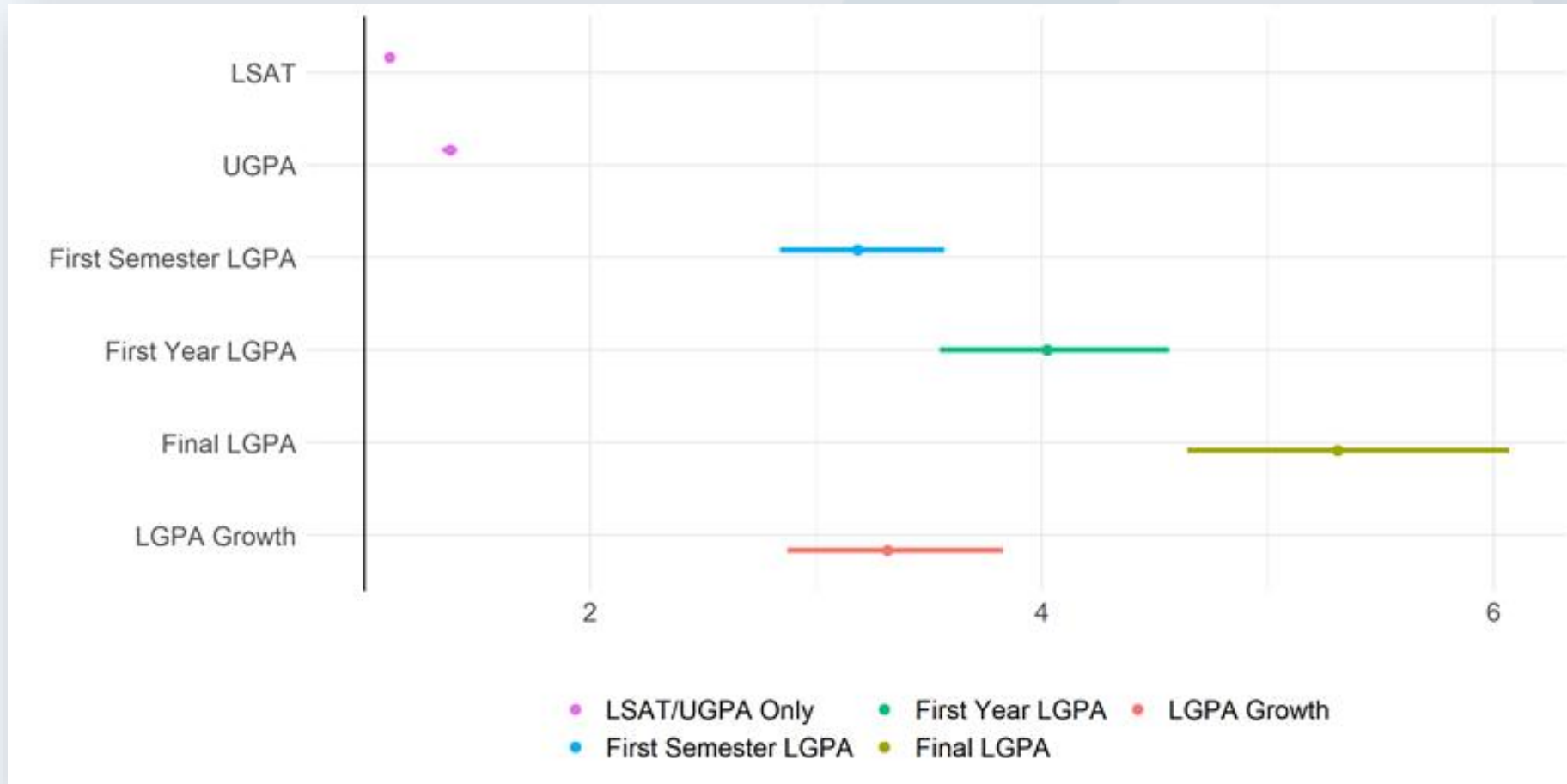
Correlated with first-time  
success on the bar exam

# COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC INFLUENCES ON FIRST-TIME BAR PASSAGE

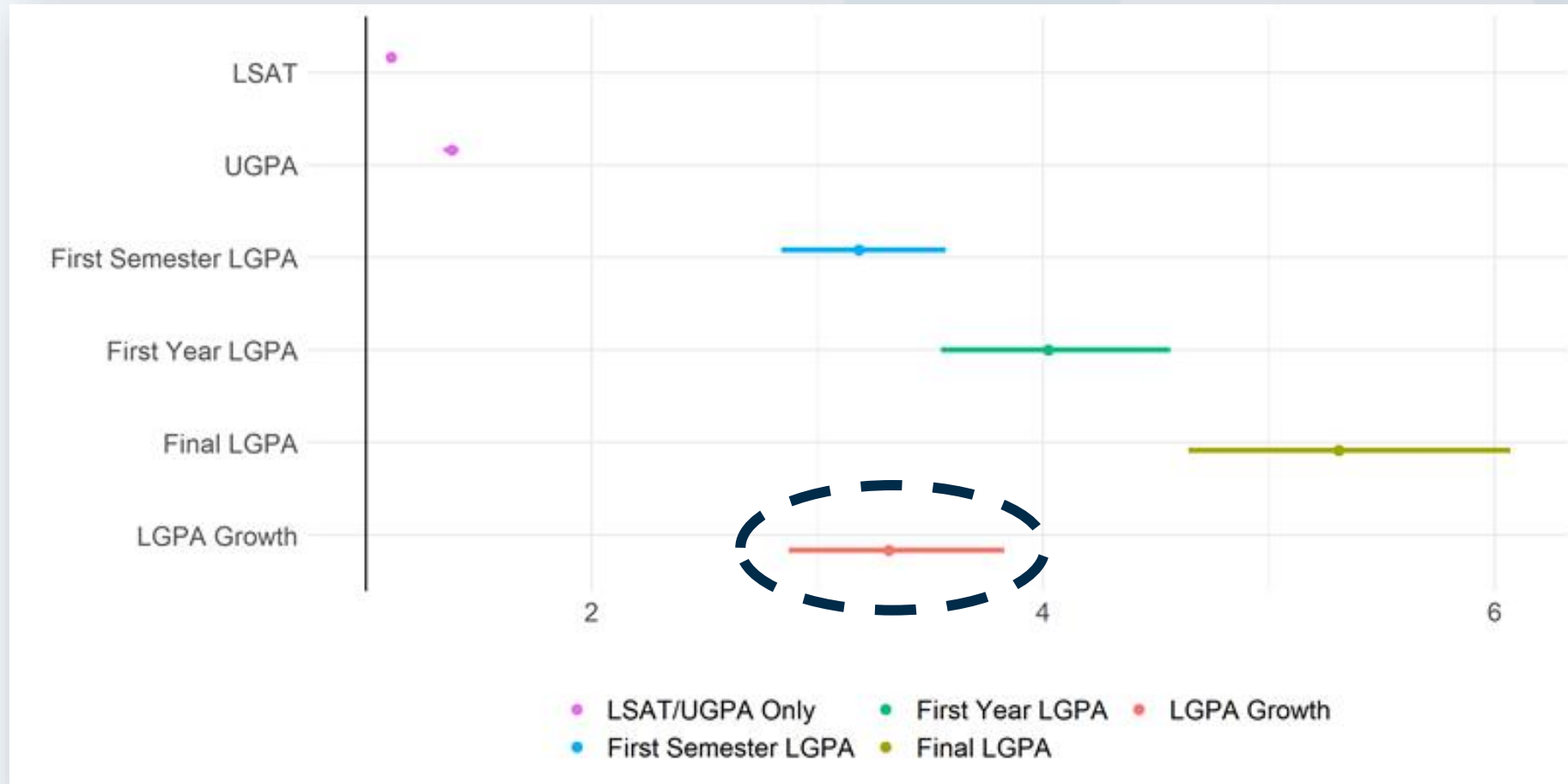




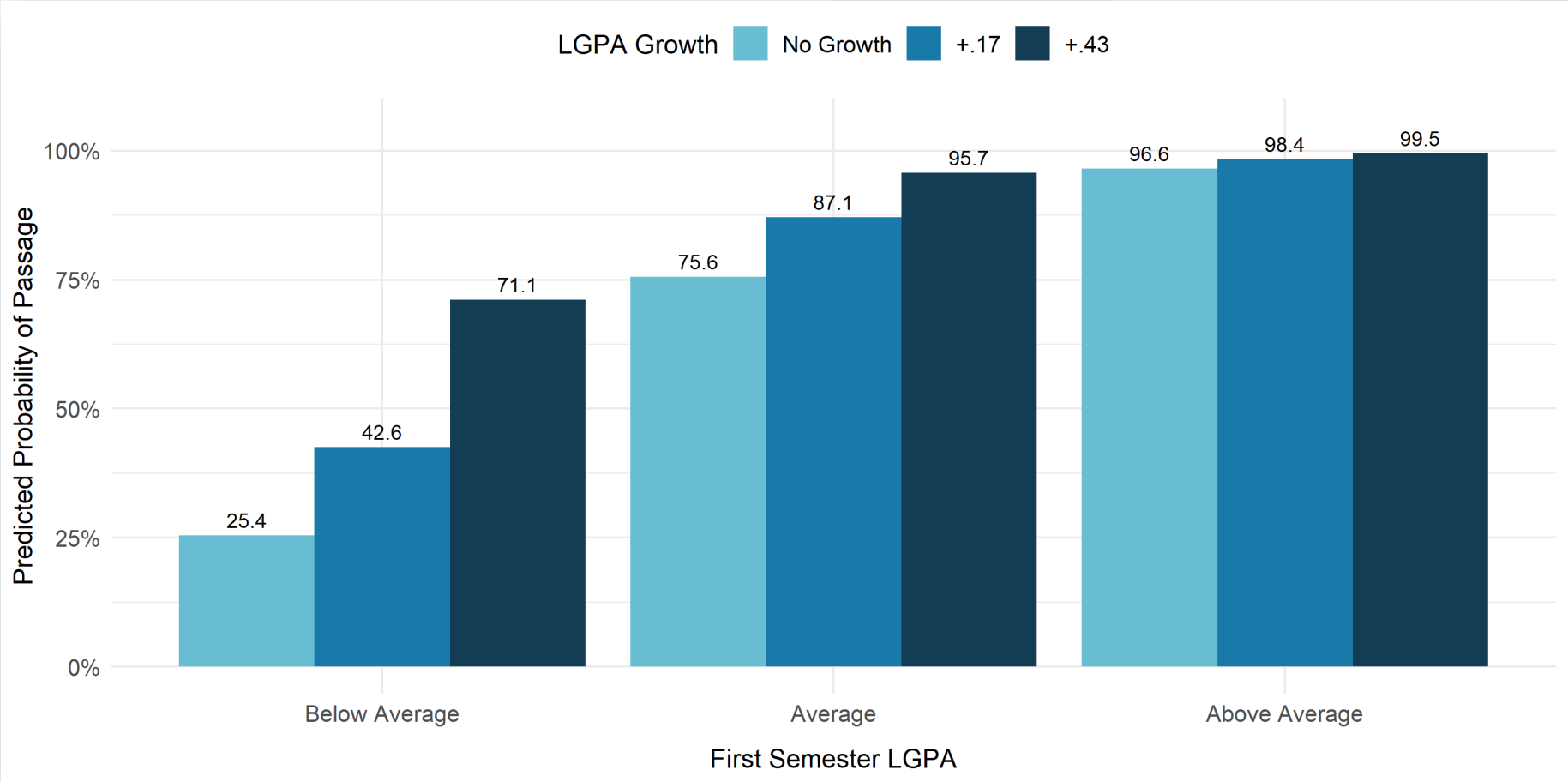
# COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC INFLUENCES ON FIRST-TIME BAR PASSAGE



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# GPA GROWTH INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF BAR PASSAGE

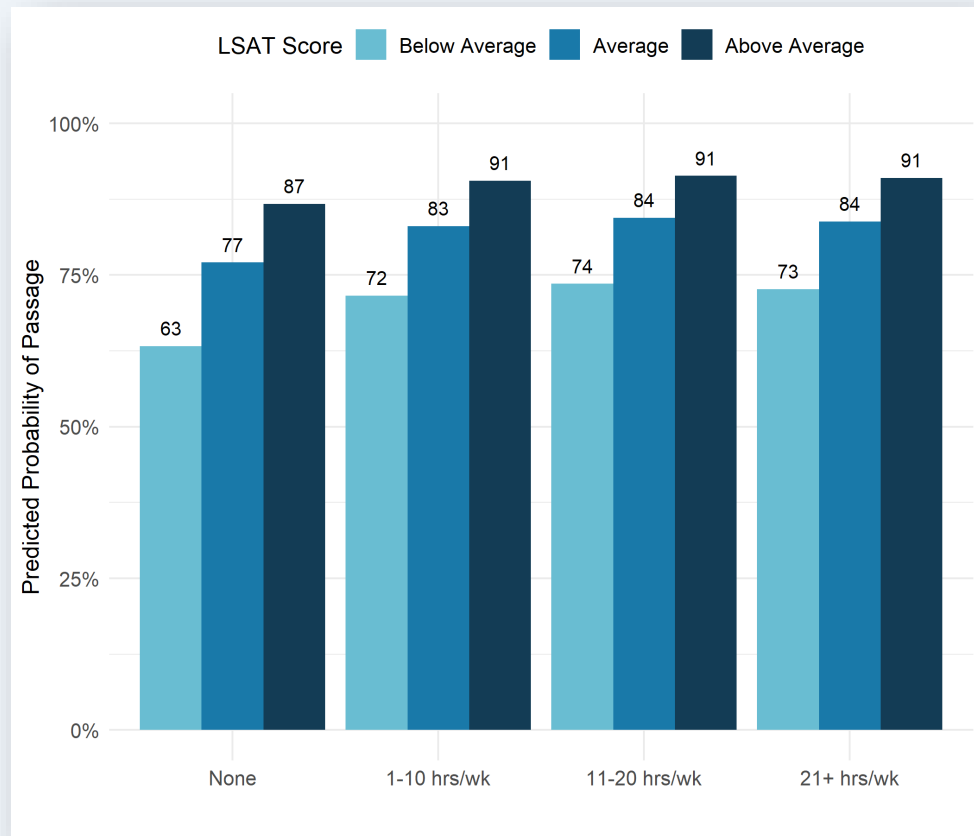


# SIGNIFICANT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FACTORS

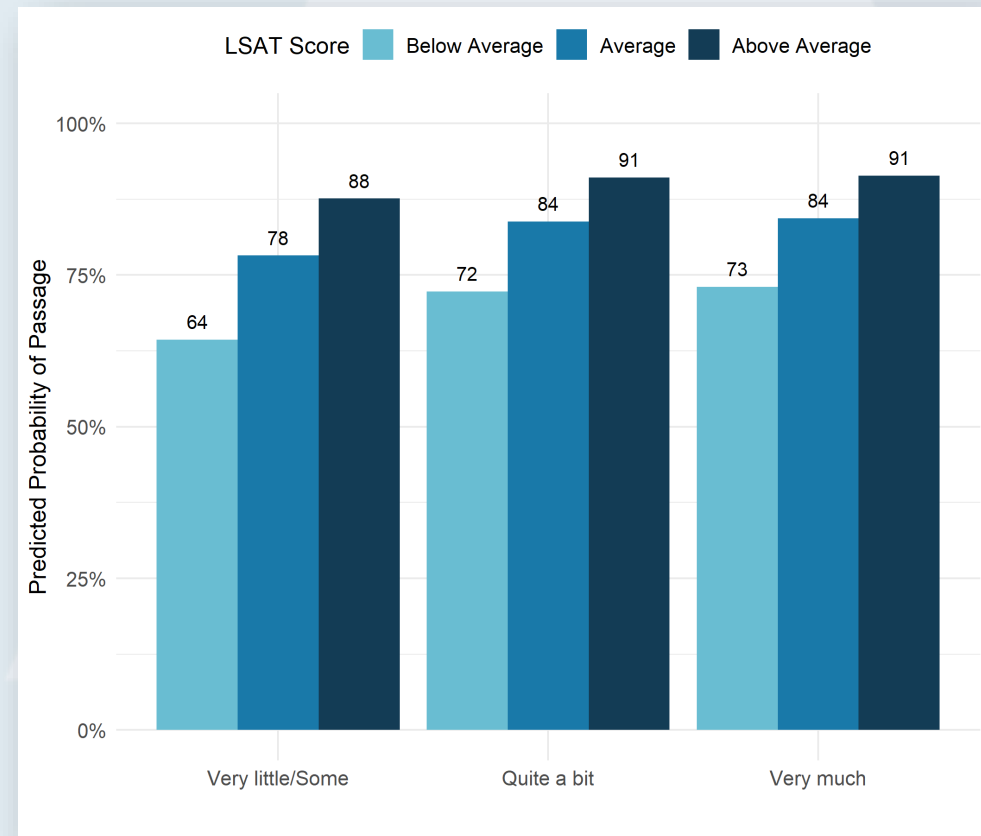
Learning to Think Like a Lawyer	Student-Faculty Interaction	Student Advising	Law School Environment	
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# DEVELOPING SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE IN LAW SCHOOL MATTERS

## GAINING REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE



## DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SKILLS



IT'S NOT WHERE  
YOU START...



**IT'S HOW YOU  
FINISH!**



# MOVING FORWARD



GROWTH OCCURS  
ABOVE AND  
BELOW THE  
SURFACE



**GROWTH OCCURS  
ABOVE AND  
BELOW THE  
SURFACE**

**ABOVE**

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**LAW SCHOOL GPA**

**BELOW**

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**ATTITUDE  
EXPERIENCE  
ENVIRONMENT  
HABITS  
BEHAVIORS**

# NEW INITIATIVE, NEW QUESTIONS

- How do law student experiences and behaviors develop over time?
- How do these factors relate to GPA growth?
- Does undergraduate GPA growth predict law school academic performance?

# CHANGES IN STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LGPA GROWTH

Learning to Think Like a Lawyer	Student-Faculty Interaction	Student Advising	Law School Environment	
Broad Legal Education	Emphasis on Academics	Supportive Environment	School Satisfaction	Expected Loan Debt
Self-Care	Other (Non-Legal) Responsibilities	Real-World Legal Experience	Practical Skills Development	Peer Collaboration
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# GETTING INVOLVED

# REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Minimum Fall first-time, full-time entering class size of 180
- ✓ Response rate 55% or 125 students (the greater of the two)
- ✓ Commit to participate for three years
- ✓ Secure approval (e.g., IRB) to submit required data

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

-  Register for the LSSSE Survey
-  Sign AccessLex data sharing agreement
-  Submit data annually for three years

# REQUIRED DATA POINTS

<b>LSSSE SURVEY DATA</b>	<b>LSAT SCORE</b>	<b>LGPA (VARIOUS)</b>
<b>STUDENT/GRADUATE NAME</b>	<b>UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION</b>	<b>BAR EXAM RESULT: PASS, FAIL</b>
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>	<b>UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR(S)</b>	<b>SCALED MBE SCORE (WHERE AVAILABLE)</b>
<b>GENDER</b>	<b>UGPA (VARIOUS)</b>	<b>BAR EXAM SCORE (WHERE AVAILABLE)</b>
<b>BIRTH YEAR</b>	<b>ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>	<b>BAR EXAM JURISDICTION</b>



# PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES

1. LSSSE fees reimbursement for law schools with below 75% bar pass rate, annually
2. \$25 gift card for Fall cohort survey respondents, annually
3. \$1,000 “scholarship” for most improved student, awarded in third year only
4. Robust, empirical analysis to assist your ongoing work of empowering the next generation of lawyers

**QUESTIONS?**

# CONTACT US

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**THANK YOU**