

SB17 Information for MCLE Accreditation

This document provides guidance related to [SB 17](#) and [UT System policy 197](#) for Texas Law student groups and departments requesting that **UT Law CLE** obtain continuing legal education accreditation for conferences, symposiums, lunch and other activities on their behalf. This state law went into effect on January 1, 2024, and indicates that programs cannot be designed or implemented in ways to provide training around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, specifically prohibiting training designed or implemented in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation.¹

Although there is an exception for academic (i.e., for-credit) programs, the guidance we’ve received from UT Legal Affairs is that courses not offered for academic credit are considered training and thus are **not** eligible for this carveout. In short, this means that an instructor of a non-credit continuing and professional education course **cannot include DEI content** of any kind in the course. This restriction includes any custom training engagements for businesses and organizations. Violations may result in the institution being sued and/or losing access to state funding. [The UT System policy](#) allows for individuals to be disciplined and potentially terminated for violations of SB 17.

Here's how you can help to ensure that the School of Law, the CLE Office, your group and the University remain in compliance with State law: (please initial by each statement)

- Please ensure that you do not include any content, course materials or use examples that discuss or relate to DEI in your programs. (_____)
- Review your agenda to ensure that your content does not reference any of the prohibited categories. Content on broad topics such as implicit bias or “Designing an Inclusive Workplace” are allowed under the law provided that they are implemented without reference to one of the prohibited categories (race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation). Note that the restrictions of the law relate specifically to the categories named, and do not include other categories such as gender, age, income, etc. (_____)
- If questions are raised by participants about DEI or one of the prohibited categories, frame responses in a way that will allow discussion within the intent of the law. If you feel it necessary, you may also politely decline to answer, citing State law. (_____)
- If you bring in an outside guest speaker for a limited engagement, you are not responsible for managing their content as long as you have not invited them to discuss a DEI-related topic.(_____)

We appreciate that implementation of this law is unclear in places and may be challenging, especially for faculty who are teaching both for-credit and non-credit courses. The intent of the University and UT Law CLE is to comply with the law. If you have questions or would like to discuss a specific situation, please contact April Rogers, arogers@law.utexas.edu.

Signature of Student Affairs or Law School Staff

¹ Training related to health equity that links directly to patient care is an exception that is permitted.