

Esquire Bound

Your Checklist for Admission to Practice and Bar Exam Success

Reorientation to the Bar Exam

February 4, 2024

News and Notes

- **Minimum pass score for PA lowered to 270 as of February 2024**
- **July 2024 PA Bar Application Now Open**

Admission by Examination

For applicants to be admitted to practice by examination, applicants must:

- Submit the necessary **application form(s) and fee(s)** to the jurisdiction
- Sit for and take the **bar exam** in that jurisdiction
- Satisfy the jurisdiction's **character and fitness** and **other admission requirements** (e.g.: MPRE)
- Complete any **jurisdiction-specific law component(s)** required

Application for Admission

Application Deadlines and Fees

- Check with your jurisdiction's governing body for bar admissions for relevant deadlines, fees, and requirements
- Application fees can be costly!
 - Fees may increase with later deadlines
 - Additional fees for computer-based testing, transferring MPRE scores, etc.

PA Bar Application Deadlines/Fees

Application for Permission to Sit for the Pennsylvania Bar Examination and for Character and Fitness Determination under Pa.B.A.R. 203/205

Application deadlines and filing fees for the bar exam. The following deadlines are POSTMARK deadlines.

<u>Filing Deadline</u>	<u>February Exam</u>	<u>July Exam</u>	<u>Applicant Fee</u>
Timely	October 30	April 15	\$650.00
First Late	November 15	April 30	\$800.00
Second Late	November 30	May 15	\$1,100.00
Final	December 15	May 30	\$1,500.00

PA Bar Exam Computer Based Testing (CBT) Fees

<u>CBT Fees and Deadlines</u>		
Timely	CBT request & fee submitted with bar application	\$115.00
Late	CBT request and/or fee submitted after bar application	\$165.00 Accompanied with an <u>Amendment Form</u>
Final	CBT request and fee must be sent and postmarked February exam: January 6 July exam: June 6 No CBT submissions will be accepted after the final deadline	\$165.00 Accompanied with an <u>Amendment Form</u>

Local Jurisdictions: Websites

Pennsylvania	New Jersey	Delaware	New York
<u>PA Application for Bar Exam</u>	<u>NJ Bar Application</u>	<u>DE Bar Application</u>	<u>NY Bar Information Guide</u>
<u>PABOLE Fees & Deadlines</u>	<u>NJBOLE Fees & Deadlines</u>	<u>Forms Library</u>	<u>UBE/NYLC/NYLE FAQs</u>
<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>FAQs</u>	<u>FAQs</u>	<u>NYBOLE Dates & Deadlines</u>
	<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>Testing Accommodations</u>	<u>NYLC/NYLE Course Materials & Questions</u>
			<u>Testing Accommodations</u>

Bar Exam

What is the Bar Examination?

- A test of minimal competence
 - Average minimum pass score approximately 65%-70%
- Multi-day, closed-book examination to test your ability to think and reason like a lawyer
 - Typically administered during the last week of July and/or February
- Tests the black letter law
- Does not test:
 - Specific case law
 - Policy considerations

Do I need to take the bar exam?

- Yes if:
 - You have a job offer in hand that requires you to be admitted to practice law
- No if:
 - You do not plan on practicing law
 - You have an alternative career or JD Advantage job offer in hand

When do I need to take the bar exam?

- The first administration after graduation from law school
 - July for most graduates
- Reasons to defer taking the bar exam to a subsequent administration
 - Working full-time in a job that does not require you to be admitted to practice
 - E.g.: law-related job, non-law-related job, judicial clerkship
 - External Obligations/Responsibilities
 - Burnout
 - Insufficient time to prepare for the exam adequately

Where to Take the Bar Exam: Things to Consider

- Post-Grad Employment
 - Employment requirements
 - State v. Federal work
- Long-Term Goals
 - Where do you want to live and/or work?
- Minimum Pass Score (i.e.: "cut score")
 - Relevant when considering among UBE Jurisdictions
- Other Avenues to Bar Admission

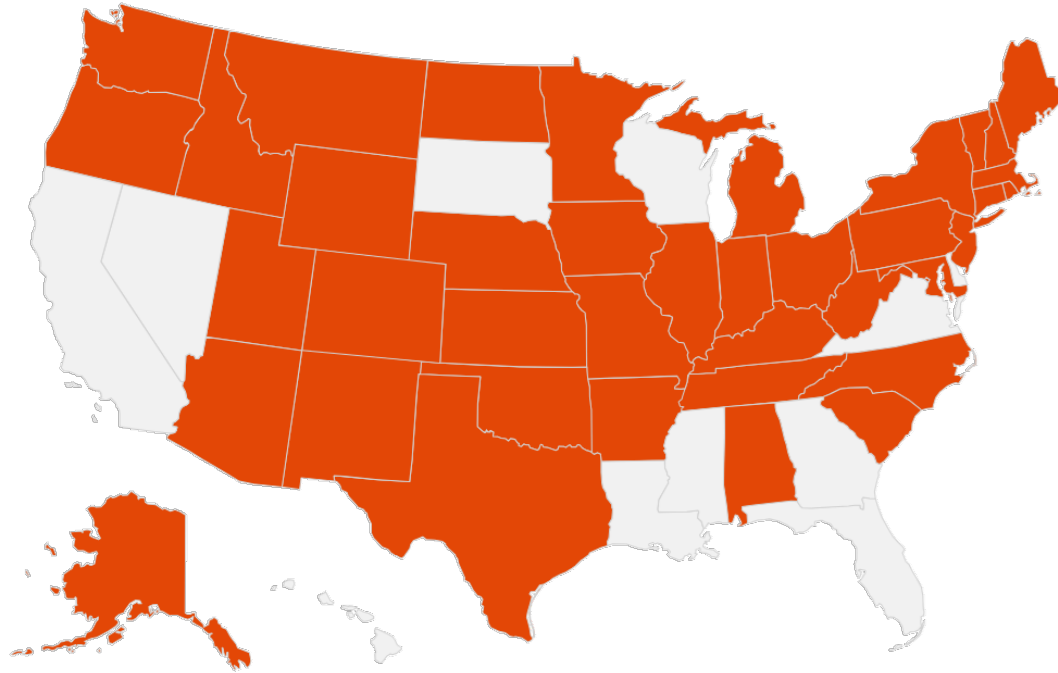
Types of Bar Exams

- Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) – <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube>
 - E.g.: PA, NJ
- UBE & Additional Jurisdiction-Specific Requirements
 - E.g.: NY
- Jurisdiction-Specific Exams
 - E.g.: CA, FL, DE

What is the UBE?

- Uniformly administered and scored bar exam that results in portable score
- Bar candidates who take the UBE may transfer their scores to seek admission in other UBE jurisdictions within a certain amount of time after the scores were earned
- Administered twice per year
 - Last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July

Jurisdictions that have Adopted the UBE



LEGEND

- UBE Adopted
- UBE Not Adopted

NOT SHOWN ON MAP

- District of Columbia
- Guam
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau
- Puerto Rico
- Virgin Islands

UBE Test Components

- Multistate Performance Test (MPT) – Tuesday, 3 hours
 - Two 90-minute “closed universe” assignments: simulated case files testing fundamental lawyering skills
- Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) – Tuesday, 3 hours
 - Six 30-minute essays
- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) – Wednesday, 6 hours (two 3-hour sessions)
 - 200-question multiple-choice exam

Character & Fitness and Other Requirements

Character & Fitness

Overview of Character & Fitness

- Demonstration of character and fitness is among the essential elements required for bar admission
- Background investigations are part of the admission process for all jurisdictions
- Requirements, deadlines, and processing times vary among jurisdictions
 - Get familiar with your jurisdiction's requirements!
- Primary purpose: to protect the public
- Onus is on applicant to prove good moral character
- Candor is paramount

What can I do now?

- Familiarize yourself with the character & fitness questions for the jurisdiction(s) in which you wish to be admitted to the bar
 - Get a sense of what type of supporting documents you may need
- Start compiling address history and employment history
 - Go back as far as the jurisdiction that requires the longest history
 - E.g.: PA (5 years) and NJ (10 years) – compile 10-year history now
- If you think you need to amend your law school application, do so now!

Character & Fitness: Relevant Links

- [PA Bar Exam Character & Fitness](#)
 - [PA Bar Sample Application to the Bar](#)
- [NJ Bar Exam Character & Fitness](#)
- [DE Bar Exam Character & Fitness Guidelines](#)
- [NY Application for Admission](#)
- [NCBE Character & Fitness](#)
 - [Sample NCBE Character & Fitness Application](#)

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)

MPRE Basics

- Two-hour, 60-question multiple choice exam
- Tests knowledge and understanding of established standards related to the professional conduct of lawyers
 - Does not test personal ethics
 - Not just "common sense"
- Required by all but two jurisdictions
 - Not required in Wisconsin or Puerto Rico
 - Connecticut and New Jersey will accept successful completion of law school course on professional responsibility in lieu of MPRE score
- Each jurisdiction sets their passing score and time limitations (if any)

2024 MPRE Dates, Deadlines, and Fees

2024 Test Dates

Registration for all 2024 test dates is now open.

TEST ADMINISTRATION	RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION DATE TO APPLY FOR ACCOMMODATIONS	REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEE: \$160
March 26 or 27, 2024	December 5, 2023	January 25, 2024
August 13 or 14, 2024	April 24, 2024	June 12, 2024
November 7 or 8, 2024	July 24, 2024	September 18, 2024

MPRE Registration Process: 2-Step

- Step 1: Register through NCBE
 - [Create an NCBE Account](#) (if you haven't done so already)
 - If needed, [apply for MPRE Testing Accommodations](#)
 - Register for the MPRE through your NCBE Account
- Step 2: Schedule test through Pearson VUE
 - Receive Authorization to Test email from Pearson VUE
 - Schedule test and pay fee through Pearson VUE within 48 hours of receiving email and before registration deadline
 - Early is best! Waiting to schedule your test closer to the registration deadline may result in fewer local testing sites available

When should I take the MPRE? Things to Consider

- Offered 3 times per year: March, August, and November
- Does your jurisdiction have certain time limitations?
 - Do you need to take the MPRE before you apply for the Bar Exam?
 - Is there an expiration on your score?
- Have you taken Professional Responsibility yet?
- When do you plan on taking the bar exam?
- Do I need to be admitted to practice immediately?

How do I prepare for the MPRE?

- NCBE Resources
 - [MPRE Subject Matter Outline](#)
 - [MPRE Key Words & Phrases](#)
 - [MPRE Free Sample Test Questions](#)
- Free prep courses through commercial bar prep companies
 - Opportunity to try different platforms to see what courses you may prefer for bar prep
 - e.g.: [Barbri](#), [Helix](#), [Kaplan](#), [Quimbee](#), [Themis](#)
- Supplemental Practice Materials/Tests
 - Use NCBE licensed questions when possible!
 - May require an additional fee
 - [NCBE Study Aids for Purchase](#)

How do I send my MPRE score to the BOLE?

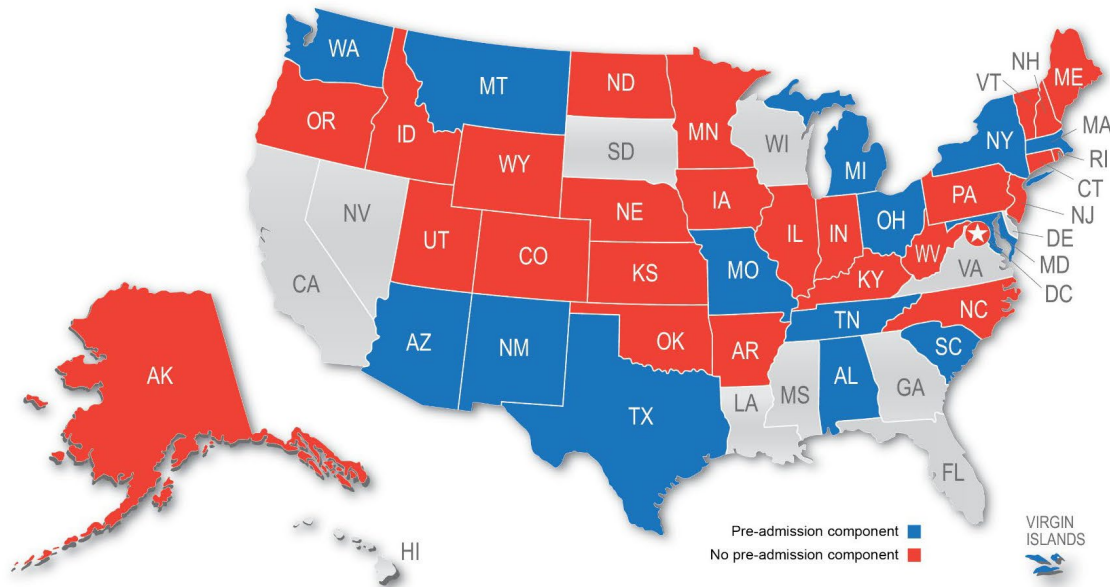
- When you register for the MPRE, you will be asked to indicate the jurisdiction to which you want your score reported. NCBE will report your MPRE score to that jurisdiction about 5 weeks after the exam.
 - If you recently registered for or took the MPRE, you can see the jurisdiction you selected by viewing the Summary of Request for Test Authorization in your [NCBE Account File Cabinet](#)
- If you want your MPRE score reported to additional jurisdictions, you must submit a request to NCBE for an MPRE Score Report through your NCBE Account.
 - As of January 2024, the NCBE Score Services Fee is \$30

Jurisdiction-Specific Law Component

Jurisdiction-Specific Law

- UBE jurisdictions may require completion of a course, test, or some combination separate from the UBE
- Completion may be required before admission or within a certain amount of time after admission.
- Jurisdiction-specific components typically require for all candidates regardless of whether testing or transferring UBE score

UBE Pre-Admission Jurisdiction-Specific Law Components



- **Pre-admission component:**

Alabama, Arizona, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan,
Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, South
Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, Washington

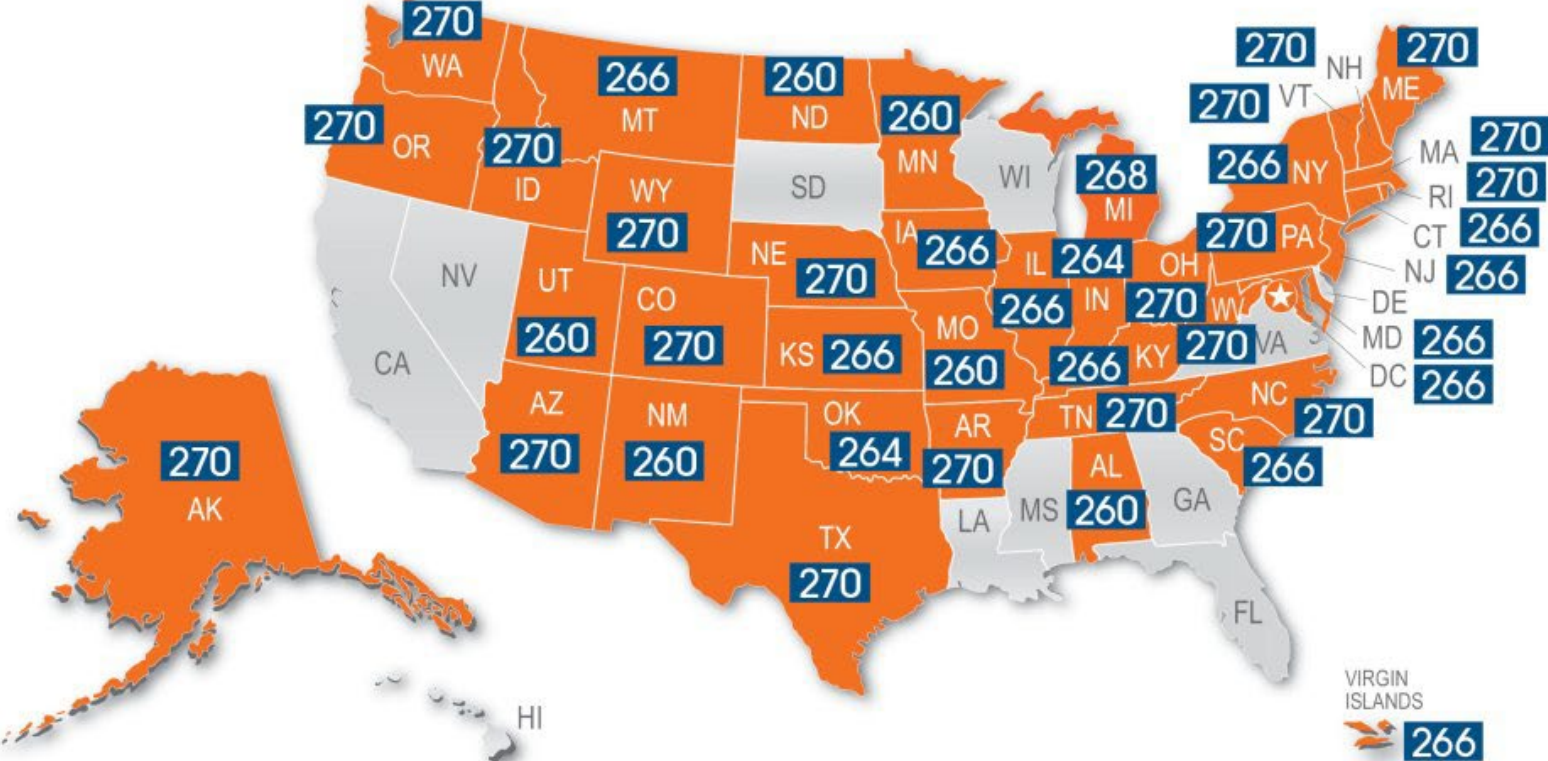
- **No pre-admission component:**

Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

Admission by Score Transfer

- Passing score in jurisdiction required
 - Even if your score wasn't high enough to "pass" where you sat for the exam
- Need an **official UBE transcript** from NCBE to be sent to the jurisdiction
- Still need to submit the necessary application form(s) and fee(s), satisfy the character and fitness and other admissions requirements, and complete any jurisdiction-specific law component(s) for the jurisdiction

UBE Minimum Scores



UBE Maximum Score Age



Spring 2024 Esquire Bound Series Events

- **February 11th:** Mechanics of Bar Application; Character & Fitness; Virtual Help Desk to follow
- **February 25th:** Creating your Bar Study Plan; Virtual Help Desk to follow
- **March 31st:** Bar Prep Panel with Recent Graduates; Virtual Help Desk to follow
- **April 14th:** Bar Exam Help Desk and AMA

