

District of Columbia

Bar Admission Checklist



Find details on exam dates, registration deadlines, special accommodations, and current fees.

The District of Columbia (DC) bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate, but we're here to guide you. There are many steps involved as the date of the exam nears. Start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date. Here's what you need to know and do for bar admission in the District of Columbia:

☐ Create an NCBE Account | Before Petition

My NCBE Number

All law students are required to create an NCBE Account that comes with a unique NCBE Number for identification purposes. You will need this number to be able to take the MPRE (see below) and the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam), which are developed by the NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners). The MBE is administered on day two of the DC Bar Exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE. Register with the NCBE at: <https://auth.ncbex.org/account/create>

☐ Take the MPRE | Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

We recommend taking the MPRE any time during your 2L year or as early in your 3L year as possible. DC requires an MPRE scaled score of **75**. Scores range from 50 to 150.

The MPRE is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice exam developed by the NCBE and administered in the spring, summer, and fall. When registering for the MPRE, students can select one of two dates offered at a time on a first come, first served basis. **Scan the QR code above for exam dates, accommodation and exam registration deadlines, and current fees.**

You can register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course here: barbri.com/mpre

The online, on-demand BARBRI MPRE Review course allows you to watch specific lecture segments that correspond with a particular topic module. The course is accompanied by an outline book (hard copy and/or digital), lecture handout, multiple practice exams, and BARBRI's exclusive multiple-choice questions.

Secure Your Bar Prep Course | Start Early for Full Advantages

Ready for bar prep? We're here for you. We've spent over 50 years optimizing and investing in legal education and bar review. That's a proven track record. And that's why every minute you spend with BARBRI Bar Review statistically increases your chances of passing.



Most Passes

Nearly 90% of our students who do the average amount of prep pass the bar exam. Don't just take our word for it, though. Ask the 1.435 million lawyers, judges and legal professionals who have passed using BARBRI.



Most Personalized

BARBRI is personalized to you from the beginning. ISAAC is the proprietary engine that creates a smart bar prep Personal Study Plan for you from day one. It updates based on time left until your exam, customizations you make, and the most statistically significant topics for passing the bar.



Most Points

Master bar exam content with expert lectures from the best law professors in the country and a bank of 5K+ practice multiple-choice questions. The result? Studies show BARBRI students score more points compared to students who don't study with BARBRI.



Most Students

The largest pool of students prepare for the bar with BARBRI. In fact, more students prepare with BARBRI every year than all other bar prep courses – combined. For an exam with a curved score, that means you can trust us to analyze your chances of passing before you even sit for the exam.

Enroll early and gain immediate access to 2L/3L Exam Success and early access to Early Start Bar Review. **Enroll at:** barbri.com/pricing.

If you are billing a firm, congratulations! BARBRI has trusted direct billing relationships with over 500 law firms. **Learn more about billing a law firm at:** barbri.com/firm-pay.

If you're going into Public Interest, you may qualify for a BARBRI Bar Review Public Interest Scholarship. **Apply in less than 5 minutes at:** barbri.com/public-interest.

Petition for The Bar Exam | Deadlines and Fees

The February application typically opens in early November and closes in mid-to-late November. The July application typically opens in early April and closes in early May.

The application period for the DC Bar Exam varies from year to year.

Find Petition for Admission instructions, forms and details at: <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov/information-and-applications>



Find current bar exam application fees and deadlines at: www.barbri.com/states/district-of-columbia-bar-exam/ or by scanning the QR code.

Answer Character + Fitness Questions | Start Early, Expect a Thorough Check

In the District of Columbia Committee on Admissions, your Petition for Admission by Examination will incorporate character and fitness questions – this is a separate background investigation conducted through the NCBE, but no questions will need to be answered at the time of application. The District of Columbia Committee on Admissions will then conduct an internal investigation based on your responses.

You will be asked to disclose details about your academic, residential and employment history, provide six letters of recommendation, and disclose any applicable criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key. You will also need to include your law school certificate.

Within 7-10 business days after filing your application with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, you will receive an email from the NCBE with instructions on how to submit payment for the background investigation. Payment for the background investigation is required for your application to be complete.

□ Register Your Laptop | Use for Essays

Specific instructions regarding laptop use is provided by a third party and applicants must register and pay a registration fee during the registration period which is approximately 3 to 6 weeks before the exam.

For details, please visit: <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov/faq>

□ Take the Bar Exam | Every February + July / Final Tuesday + Wednesday

DC uses the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) and requires a passing score of 266 out of a total of 400 points.

UBE scores are based on:

- 20% – Two Multistate Performance Test (MPT) questions on day one (morning session)
- 30% – Six Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) questions on day one (afternoon session)
- 50% – 200-question, multiple-choice Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on day two (morning and afternoon sessions)

MPT format: “Closed universe” practical questions using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes, and other reference material supplied by examiners

MEE essay subjects: Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Conflict of Laws*, Family Law*, Trusts and Estates (Decedents’ Estates; Trusts and Future Interests)*, Article 9 (Secured Transactions) of the Uniform Commercial Code* plus all MBE subjects

*Effective with the July 2026 bar exam, the following subjects will no longer be tested on the MEE: Conflict of Laws, Family Law, Trusts and Estates, and Secured Transactions.

MBE subjects tested: Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts

□ Newly Admitted Attorney Requirement | Mandatory Course on DC Rules

The Mandatory Course on the DC Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice is a requirement of the DC Court of Appeals and DC Bar Bylaws for all attorneys newly admitted to the DC Bar or for certain members who are reinstating their membership or changing status.

The Mandatory Course is offered online, on-demand for \$229 and must be completed in full within 12 months from being sworn in.

More information can be found at: <https://www.dcbart.org/for-lawyers/mandatory-course/process-for-new-admittees>.

District of Columbia

All information derived from the District of Columbia website at: <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov/home>

For questions or to find your school’s BARBRI Director of Legal Education, please contact: service@barbri.com.

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