

Illinois

Bar Admission Checklist

The Illinois bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate, but we're here to guide you. There are many steps involved and as the date of the exam nears, filing fees increase. 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 Illinois Bar admission:

☐ Create NCBE, Bar Admission Accounts | Before Application

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. The MBE is administered on day two of the Uniform Bar Exam.

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

You will then need to create a personal Illinois Bar Admission Registration account. **Go to:** ilbaradmissions.org/displayregister.action

☐ Take the MPRE | Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

We recommend taking the MPRE any time during 2L year or as early in your 3L year as possible. A scaled score of **80** on the MPRE is required for admission to the Illinois bar. The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar (IBAB) must receive satisfactory proof that you've achieved a passing MPRE score before you can be recommended for admission to the bar.

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 (see chart below) on a first come, first served basis.

MPRE dates	Registration deadline (fee: \$160)	Scan for more information
November 13 or 14, 2025	September 25, 2025 *July 30, 2025	
March 2026 (TBA)	TBA	
August 2026 (TBA)	TBA	
November 2026 (TBA)	TBA	

*Accommodation Registration Deadline

Register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review course at: 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 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.

Apply for the Bar Exam | Double-Check Forms

Illinois administers the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). The application process is managed by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar. For more information regarding Illinois's administration of the UBE, please visit www.ilbaradmissions.org/faq.action#400.

To take the Illinois Bar Exam, you must submit the correct forms, specific to each bar exam. Completing the relevant application forms, which include the Character and Fitness Questionnaire, is a time-consuming process. Check to make sure you are working with the right form before entering any data. To see detailed information and browse all current application forms, **go to:** ilbaradmissions.org/information-and-applications.

February (Winter) bar exam deadlines and fees*	July (Summer) bar exam deadline and fees*
Through September 15: \$950	Through February 15: \$950
September 16 – November 1: \$1,150	February 16 – April 1: \$1,150
November 2 - November 30: \$1,450	April 2 - April 30: \$1,450
*For students who HAVE NOT previously registered for the IL Bar Exam. All information subject to change, if mandated by the Illinois Supreme Court.	

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and IBAB fee schedules – both how you plan to pay and if you can meet the earlier deadlines, which will help you save money. In Illinois, the bar exam application filing fee goes up sharply depending on when you apply.

There are also fees to consider for an on-motion application, UBE transfer fee and laptop registration.



For more information and exam details, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: www.barbri.com/bar-exam-digest or by scanning the code.

□ Complete Character + Fitness | Start Early, Expect a Thorough Check

The application for the Illinois Bar Exam includes a Character and Fitness Questionnaire. You will be asked to disclose details about your personal, academic, work and financial histories. Candor is key. You will also need to include information such as references, final law school transcripts, driving record, criminal record and civil proceedings.

View the questionnaire and all related forms at: ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1.

□ Sign Authorization and Release (A+R) Form | During Application

With your signed A&R, character and fitness analysts have the authority to perform a full background check on you. **You can complete the A&R as part of your application at:** ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1.

□ Register Your Laptop | No Deadline Extensions

Registration period/fee:

The laptop registration period typically begins 6+ weeks before the exam date and, for reference, cost \$135 in 2025. There are no extensions. If you miss the deadline, you will have to handwrite your essays.

Students will need to install the software and upload a Trial Exam by a specific deadline or their Exam 360® account will be deleted, and they will have to handwrite the exam. Reference <https://www.ilbaradmissions.org/> for up to date deadlines.

Full details pertaining to the IBAB Laptop Program: ilbaradmissions.org/notice.action.

□ Take the Bar Exam | February 24-25, 2026 / July 28-29, 2026

Illinois administers 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

Helpful tip: Remember to bring an extension cord in case your laptop charger does not reach the provided outlet.

Note: Illinois has announced plans to administer the Next Gen bar exam beginning in 2028.

□ Attorney Registration | After Swearing-In

Web Access ID

Shortly after your swearing-in ceremony, you'll receive a registration letter from the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois (ARDC). Keep this handy.

Go to iardc.org and click on Lawyer Registration. Use your web access ID in your letter from the ARDC to register by the deadline.

For further questions, contact the ARDC at: registration@iardc.org.

□ Continuing Legal Education | For New Lawyers

Your completion deadline is the last day of the month following the day that marks one year of your admittance to the Illinois bar and the deadline to report your compliance is 31 days after that completion deadline.

Initial credit completion deadline: June 30th of your reporting year.

Initial credit reporting deadline: July 31st of your reporting year.

Newly-admitted attorneys in Illinois have special requirements for their first year of admittance. The choices include taking a Basic Skills course, participating in an approved mentoring program or selecting other MCLE courses of interest.

The deadline to complete these MCLE hours is one year from the last day of the month you were admitted to the Illinois bar.

Find your exact MCLE deadline and compliance options here: isba.org/newlawyers/mclerequirements.

□ Illinois State Bar Association | Become a Member

Illinois attorneys are automatically enrolled for a two-year complimentary membership when sworn into the Illinois Bar. After being sworn in, provide your current information to **activate your membership registration** at: isba.org/membership/newadmittees/form.

Become involved in the Young Lawyers Division and join two complimentary member sections to become part of a statewide community of lawyers who practice in your substantive area. **Learn more at:** isba.org/newlawyers/membership.

Illinois State Bar

All information derived from the IBAB website at: ilbaradmissions.org/home

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

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