

New York

Bar Admission Checklist



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

The bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate, but we're here to guide you. There are many steps involved and, especially for New York, additional special state-specific, professional skills and pro bono requirements. 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 New York Bar admission:

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 85 on the MPRE is required for admission to the New York bar. Scores are scaled and range from 50 to 150. A raw score of approximately 32 correct out of 50 usually converts to a scaled score of 85.

The MPRE is a two-hour, 60-question, multiple-choice 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.**

Register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course at: barbri.com/mpre

The online, on-demand BARBRI MPRE lecture 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 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 Personalized

BARBRI is personalized to you from the beginning. Our proprietary engine 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 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 are 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.

□ Create NCBE, Bar Admission Account | Before Application

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

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

□ Take the NYLC and NYLE | State Specific Content Knowledge

As an applicant for admission in New York, you must complete an online course in New York-specific law, the New York Law Course (NYLC), and pass an online examination, the New York Law Exam (NYLE). To do so, you must have a New York Board of Law Examiners (NY BOLE) account. Establish your account at <https://portal.nybarexam.org/CreateAccount>.

You cannot commence the NYLC or the NYLE more than one year before the date when you will first sit for the UBE. You also have up to three years after sitting for the bar exam to complete both. However, you cannot be admitted without completion.

The NYLC and NYLE focus on important principles of New York law that are either different from the general principles and prevailing views of the law tested on the MBE and the MEE or are unique to New York and important for the new practitioner to know.

The free online, on-demand NYLC covers 12 subjects during 17 hours of lectures that include embedded questions, which must be answered correctly before continuing each video. A supporting 200+ page outline can be downloaded (PDF) in preparation for the exam. The NYLC must be completed a minimum of 30 days prior to taking the NYLE (also prior to registering for the NYLE), but no earlier than one year prior to sitting for the UBE. Otherwise, you will be required to repeat the NYLC. In addition, you can sit for the NYLE after the bar exam (but, no later than three years after sitting for the UBE initially).

The two-hour online NYLE covers important state rules within a 50-question, open-book, multiple-choice test format. The passing score is 60% (30 out of 50 questions correct) – otherwise, you will need to retake both the NYLC and NYLE.

The NYLE is offered three times a year. **Scan the QR code on the front page for upcoming exam dates and accommodation & exam registration deadlines.**

There is a fee for purchasing, downloading and registering the exam software that is required for the NYLE. All applicants will be required to perform and submit a mock exam to confirm that the software works on their computer. A few days before the date of the exam, applicants will be required to login to their account and download the exam file to their computer that will be used on exam day.

Free NYLC and NYLE review materials are provided at: nybarexam.org/Content/CourseMaterials.htm

□ Apply for the Bar Exam | February and July Exam Deadlines

1. Apply online between **October 1-31** for the February bar exam, and between **March 1-31** for the July bar exam. **Stay on top of deadlines and fees by scanning the QR code below.**
2. LL.M. candidates who must seek an Advance Evaluation of Eligibility from the New York Board of Law Examiners must submit their Online Foreign Evaluation AND all Required Foreign Documentation by May 1 preceding the February bar exam or October 1 preceding the July bar exam.
3. To take the New York Bar Exam, you must have both your NCBE Identification Number and New York Board of Law Examiners Identification Number (NY BOLE ID).
4. For a NY BOLE ID, be sure to obtain a current copy of your law school transcripts to answer some of the questions on the law school section of the online application.
5. Review the instructions for applicants regarding “Completion of Questions on Bar Exam Application” at: www.nybarexam.org/forms/JDCertofAttendanceInstructions.pdf
6. In addition, go over all applicable Bar Exam Applications and Forms (handwriting sample, test accommodations request, L.L.M. Certificate of Attendance, etc.) at: www.nybarexam.org/forms/forms.htm



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

□ Register Your Laptop | No Deadline Extensions

You are allowed to use a laptop for the New York Bar Exam essay questions (MPT and MEE). When you apply for the bar exam, be sure to indicate that you will participate in the laptop program. A follow-up email from ExamSoft Worldwide (barsupport@examsoft.com) will provide instructions for purchasing the software and the deadline for registering your laptop. There are no extensions. If you miss the deadline, you will have to handwrite your essays.

□ Submit Skills and Professional Values | Required to Practice

New York has a separate Skills Competency and Professional Values requirement for admission to practice law. It is not a requirement to sit for the New York Bar Exam. To satisfy this skills competency requirement, there are five “pathways” – the first three can be accomplished before taking the bar, during law school, and the other two at any time prior to admission in New York.

1. Certification from the applicant’s law school confirming that **1.** the law school has developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school’s judgment, are required for its graduates’ basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, and has made this plan publicly available on the law school’s website; and **2.** the applicant has acquired sufficient competency in those skills and sufficient familiarity with those values.
2. Submitting proof that the applicant completed 15 credits of practice-based experiential coursework designed to foster professional competency training. Up to 6 of these 15 credits can be earned in law school certified non-credit bearing summer employment programs, provided those employment opportunities are certified by the law school and satisfy certain other criteria.
3. Successful completion of the Pro Bono Scholars Program, pursuant to section 520.17 of the Court’s Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (see 22 NYCRR 520.17), will be deemed to have satisfied the skills competency and professional values requirement.
4. Completion of a post-graduate, six-month apprenticeship in a law office in the United States, in a commonwealth or territory of the United States, or in a foreign country, under the supervision of an attorney authorized to practice in the jurisdiction where the work is performed. The apprenticeship can be paid or unpaid. The supervising attorney is responsible for certifying that the apprenticeship satisfied certain criteria.
5. Certification that an applicant has **1.** been authorized to practice law in another state, U.S. territory, commonwealth, or country outside the United States, **2.** has practiced in that jurisdiction full-time for one year, or part-time for two years, and **3.** will meet the skills competency and professional values requirement.

The skills competency and professional values requirement is an admission requirement, not a requirement to sit for the bar exam in New York. For additional details, please review: nycourts.gov/ctapps/news/skills.pdf

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

New York 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% – 2 Multistate Performance Tests (MPT) on Day 1 (morning session)

30% – 6 Multistate Essay Exams (MEE) on Day 1 (afternoon session)

50% – 200 Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on Day 2 (morning and afternoon sessions)

Subjects tested: Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws*, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Family Law*, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates (Decedents’ Estates; Trusts and Future Interests)*, and Uniform Commercial Code (Secured Transactions)*.

*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.

Locations: Applicants will be assigned to a test center in one of the four judicial departments located in New York State. **Test center assignments will be based on availability and a first come, first serve basis, however first-time applicants who graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from a New York State law school will be given the first opportunity to select the city in which they want to sit (not the actual testing site); all others (approximately 24-48 hours later), including LLM’s and out of state applicants, will then have the opportunity to select a city from what remains.** This is coordinated by email sometime after the application period closes (i.e., typically in late December for those taking the Winter exam, and early June for those taking the Summer exam) requiring registrants to select and confirm their seat location. Only locations with available seats will be listed in the email and since there will be no waiting lists for any location, you must select one from the choices made available to you. Prior Winter and Summer exam locations have included the following (subject to change by the NY Board of Law Examiners):

New York City:

Armory Track & Field Center
Fordham University Lombardi
Center Fieldhouse
Jacob Javits Convention
Center – Exhibition Halls 1D & 1E

Albany:

Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Albany Capital Center

Long Island:

Hofstra University — David S. Mack Sports
& Exhibition Complex

Buffalo:

Buffalo Convention Center

Previous Other:

Pace Law School — New York Judicial Institute
Saratoga Springs

☐ Complete Pro Bono Requirement | 50 Hours

Prior to seeking admission, you'll need to complete at least 50 hours of pro bono work in the United States or abroad, before or after taking the New York Bar Exam. These service hours must be law related, helping to improve access to justice for low-income and disadvantaged individuals or providing relevant government services.

Your pro bono supervisor – not your law school – will complete your Affidavit of Compliance: http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/appforadmission_pro-bonoreq_fillable.pdf

☐ Apply for Admission | Practice as an Attorney

In New York, the application for admission forms are uniform among the state's four Appellate Division departments:

nybarexam.org/Admission/AdmissionMultiDeptPacket.htm

Check for everything you need in advance. Even if you're waiting on bar exam results, there may be information you can collect during this timeframe to help expedite your application filing. In the First, Second, and Third Departments of New York, you cannot file your application papers until after you have received your bar exam results from NYBOLE notifying that you've passed. In the Fourth Department, you can file your application papers any time after you have taken the bar exam.

Only fully completed applications will be accepted for filing. The following official forms, available on each Appellate Division's department website, are required to complete an application:

- An application for admission questionnaire
- Good moral character affidavits
- Employment affidavits
- Law school certificates
- Pro bono affidavit
- Any other papers you wish to submit
- An original form certificate from your law school (this form is mailed by you to the law school and then mailed directly by the law school to the appropriate Appellate Division)

The application and any further materials required by the Appellate Division and its Committees on Character and Fitness must be filed by you within three years from the date of the letter sent by the New York State Board of Law Examiners notifying you that you have passed the bar examination.

☐ Post Bar Exam | Results, Attorney Registration

- **Results:** NY BOLE typically releases winter bar exam passing results in late April and summer results in late October.
- **BARBRI Bar Review Materials:** Books need to be returned 30 days after results are released to receive your book deposit refund.
- **NY Attorney Registration (which includes Character & Fitness):** The NY Office of Court Administration (OCA) requires registration of all attorneys (resident or non-resident) for a fee of \$375. Info at nycourts.gov/attorneys/registration/index.shtml
- **Seeking admission in another jurisdiction with your passing bar exam score:** For UBE jurisdictions, consult ncbex.org/ncbe-exam-score-services/ube-score-services

To transfer an MBE score earned in NY to a non-UBE jurisdiction, consult ncbex.org/score-services

Note: Each state sets its own admission criteria, so a passing score does not automatically guarantee admission.

New York State Bar

All information derived from the NY BOLE website at nybarexam.org

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

Please know that all information is subject to change by the NYBOLE at any time.

Please reference nybarexam.org for confirmation of all requirements and details