

# Pennsylvania

## Bar Admission Checklist



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

The Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 (National Conference of Bar Examiners). The MBE is administered on day two of the Pennsylvania bar exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE. **Register with the NCBE at:** [ncbex.org/exams/mbe/registration](https://ncbex.org/exams/mbe/registration)

You will then need to create an account with the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners (BOLE). **Register and submit your application at:** [pabarapplication.org](https://pabarapplication.org)

The Pennsylvania BOLE provides a helpful guide to walk you through the online application, as well as a checklist for the supplemental documentation you will need to submit after you apply for the bar exam. **See the sample bar exam checklist at:** [pabarexam.org/online\\_file\\_info/checklist.htm](https://pabarexam.org/online_file_info/checklist.htm)

### 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 **75** on the MPRE is required for admission to the Pennsylvania bar. Applicants must provide verification of their MPRE score for admission to the bar of Pennsylvania.

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 on the front page for exam dates, accommodation and exam registration deadlines, and current fees.**

**Register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course at:** [barbri.com/mpre](https://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 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. 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 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](https://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](https://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](https://barbri.com/public-interest)

## Apply For the Bar Exam | Meet Filing Fee Deadlines

To take the Pennsylvania Bar Exam, you'll need to complete your application online and pay your filing fee. Meeting earlier deadlines will help you save – the application filing fee goes up sharply the longer you wait.



Find current bar exam application fees and deadlines at: [www.barbri.com/states/pennsylvania-bar-exam/](https://www.barbri.com/states/pennsylvania-bar-exam/) or by scanning the QR code.

Make sure to budget for the cost of an MBE score transfer and Computer Based Testing (CBT), which allows you to use a laptop to answer essay questions.

Be sure to print and save copies of the sample bar exam checklist and application when available. You'll use them as guides in gathering any supplemental documentation, which is needed later for when your character and fitness investigation begins.

For steps on how to complete an online application, **go here:** [pabarexam.org/online\\_file\\_info/online\\_info.htm](https://pabarexam.org/online_file_info/online_info.htm)

## Sign Up for CBT | Use Your Laptop for Essays

The Multistate Essay Exam questions and Multistate Performance Tests on the Pennsylvania Bar Exam are delivered in booklet format (not electronic); however, you have the option to use a laptop to type out your answers for these written components. This method of test-taking is known as Computer Based Testing (CBT).

Indicate on your bar exam application that you wish to use CBT. The **laptop fee** will be added to your total application cost. **Scan the QR code on the front page for current laptop fees.**

Look for a Pennsylvania BOLE email regarding how to download and register the Exemplify (Exam360) software. Follow these instructions to complete the process. Students should anticipate having to make time to complete these mock exams (the first is usually due about a month before the exam, the second is usually due about a week before the exam). Do not ignore mock exam submission deadlines - submitting both mock exams are required to use your laptop on exam day. For more details, **please visit:** [pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm](https://pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm)

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

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Pennsylvania uses the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) and requires a passing score of 270 out of a total of 400 points. Some UBE jurisdictions require applicants to complete a separate state law-specific component, usually in the form of a separate exam or course. Pennsylvania currently does not include a state-specific component as part of the licensure process.

**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 question 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. Please note: Pennsylvania does not accept an MBE score from an exam taken in another jurisdiction.

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

## □ Submit Character + Fitness Information | Start Early, Expect a Thorough Check

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As part of the bar exam online application process, you’ll provide background information that helps the Pennsylvania BOLE conduct a character and fitness investigation.

Pennsylvania requires five years of information on where you’ve worked and where you’ve lived, and will ask for it in reverse chronological order. You will be asked to disclose details about your personal, academic, work and financial histories, as well as criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key. You will also need to include information such as income tax returns, military service, driving records and citizenship. And as part of the character and fitness review, all applicants must submit fingerprints for the purpose of the Board verifying the identity of the applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal history.

After you’ve passed the bar exam, the board will make a determination on your character and fitness. The review process can take a few weeks up to more than a year depending on the nature of the investigation.

Find a list of character and fitness questions and instructions to help prepare for the online process at:

[pabarexam.org/c\\_and\\_f/oba/default.htm](http://pabarexam.org/c_and_f/oba/default.htm)

## □ Sign Authorization and Release (A+R) Form

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Bar exam filing deadline .....

A notarized A&R provides character and fitness analysts the authority to perform a full background check on you. If you are directed by your character and fitness investigator to submit this document, you can do so after completing your online application. You’ll print the form and sign it in the presence of a notary.

Here’s a sample A&R form with instructions: [pabarexam.org/online\\_file\\_info/arinfo.htm](http://pabarexam.org/online_file_info/arinfo.htm)

## □ Attorney Registration and Bridge the Gap

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The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania mandates that every attorney admitted to practice in Pennsylvania file an annual registration statement and pay an annual fee. **Please see:** [ujportal.pacourts.us/Register.aspx](https://ujportal.pacourts.us/Register.aspx)

As a newly admitted lawyer, you will need to complete an approved Bridge the Gap program as part of your initial Continuing Legal Education (CLE) requirement. This program must be completed before your first CLE deadline, which you can find on the PA CLE website. Bridge the Gap courses, offering four hours of ethics credits, can be **found here:** [pacle.org/courses/search?operation=30](https://pacle.org/courses/search?operation=30)

# Pennsylvania State Bar

All information derived from the Pennsylvania BOLE website at: [pabarexam.org](https://pabarexam.org)

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

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