

The Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)

The UBE is prepared and coordinated by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) to test knowledge and skills that every lawyer should be able to demonstrate as part of the licensing process to practice law.

It consists of the **Multistate Bar Exam (MBE)**, **Multistate Essay Exam (MEE)**, and the **Multistate Performance Test (MPT)**.

The summer exam takes place on the **last consecutive Tuesday & Wednesday in July**, and the winter exam takes place on the **last consecutive Tuesday & Wednesday in February**.

Day 1: Written Exam (MEE & MPT)

Format + Time Allocation

Each state/jurisdiction decides the order in which it will administer the MEE and MPT. Between the morning and afternoon sessions, you will be given:

- Six essay questions (30 minutes per question)
- Two MPT questions (90 minutes per question)

Scoring + Subjects Tested

Each jurisdiction grades the MPT & MEE components, which collectively represent 50% of the overall exam score.

The MPT consists of two 90-minute items of equal value that amount to 20% of the overall score. The materials for each MPT include a File and a Library. The File consists of source documents containing all the facts of the case such as transcripts of interviews, depositions, hearings or trials, pleadings, correspondence, etc. The Library may contain cases, statutes, regulations, or rules, some of which may not be relevant to the assigned lawyering task. The examinee is expected to extract from the Library the legal principles necessary to analyze the problem and perform the task. The MPT is not a test of substantive law.

The MEE consists of six 30-minute essays of equal value that amount to 30% of the overall score. Areas of law that may be covered on the MEE on 2026+ exams include the following: Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts (including Article 2 [Sales] of the Uniform Commercial Code), Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts.

Day 2: Multistate Bar Exam (MBE)

Format + Time Allocation

Morning session – 3 Hours Total

- 100 multiple-choice questions (approximately 1.8 minutes per question)

Lunch break

Afternoon session – 3 Hours Total

- 100 multiple-choice questions (approximately 1.8 minutes per question)

Scoring + Subjects Tested

The MBE consists of 200 multiple-choice questions: 175 scored questions and 25 unscored pre-test questions. The MBE component represents 50% of the overall exam score.

The 175 scored questions on the MBE are distributed evenly, with 25 questions from each of the seven subject areas: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts.

Each question on the MBE is designed to be answered according to generally accepted fundamental legal principles, unless noted otherwise in the question.

Scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly; points are not subtracted for incorrect answers. MBE raw scores are converted to scaled scores by the NCBE to control for possible differences in question difficulty from one exam administration to the next.

The MPT & MEE scores are then returned to the NCBE and scaled to the mean MBE score in that particular jurisdiction. The scaled and weighted MBE, MPT and MEE scores are combined to formulate a total UBE score, which local jurisdictions then report directly to their respective examinees.

Note: While the UBE is uniformly administered, graded, and scored by user jurisdictions, those same jurisdictions continue to independently decide who may sit for the bar exam and be admitted to practice (i.e., educational requirements, character and fitness decisions, etc.). In addition, they set their own passing scores, determine how long UBE scores will be accepted, and in some cases, assess candidate knowledge of jurisdiction-specific content through a separate test. Additionally, with the introduction of the NextGen bar exam beginning in 2026 and otherwise, the information contained herein is subject to change. Please consult the NCBE and the state bar examiner's website for the most up-to-date information regarding the exam you plan to take.

Minimum passing UBE score	Jurisdiction
260	Alabama*, Iowa*, Minnesota*, New Mexico*, North Dakota*, Oklahoma*, Utah*
264	Indiana*
266	District of Columbia*, Illinois*, Kansas*, Kentucky*, Montana, New Jersey*, New York*, South Carolina*
268	Michigan*
270	Alaska*, Arizona*, Arkansas, Colorado*, Maine*, Massachusetts*, Nebraska*, New Hampshire*, North Carolina*, Ohio*, Pennsylvania*, Rhode Island*, Tennessee*, Texas*, Vermont*, West Virginia*, Wyoming*

Since jurisdiction rules and policies change, you are strongly advised to consult the jurisdiction's bar admission agency directly for the most current information. Source: The NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners) website

*Jurisdiction has announced its adoption of the NextGen exam as of the print date of this document. For additional information, including the date of each jurisdiction's first administration of the NextGen exam, please consult the jurisdiction's bar admission agency.

UBE States with Pre-Admission Jurisdiction-Specific Component Requirements

Alabama – Course on Alabama Law

- Online video course consisting of 8 learning modules

Arizona – Course on Arizona Law

- Online, on demand course offered by the Arizona Supreme Court
- Approximately 6-hours of video instruction with supplemental materials and knowledge checks

Colorado – Practicing with Professionalism

- One-day course is offered several times throughout the year
- Exam applicants may complete this course either before or after sitting for the Colorado bar examination; however, Exam applicants must complete this course as a condition for admission

Maryland – Maryland Law Component (MLC)

- A set of written outlines followed by an open-book, 50-question, online multiple-choice test based on outline materials; must be answered in 90-minutes
- Passing score is 40

Massachusetts – Massachusetts Law Component (MLC)

- Open-book, 50-question online multiple-choice test covering 10 areas of state-specific law

Michigan – Michigan Law Basics

- Online course consisting of six lessons with two hurdle questions per lesson

Missouri – Missouri Educational Component Test (MECT)

- Open-book, 33-question, online multiple-choice test with review materials consisting of 11 state-specific outlines
- Passing score is 28

Montana – Montana Law Seminar

- Mandatory online course; access information is given once all requested admissions materials are received.

New Mexico – Class in New Mexico Law

- Mandatory online course, available on demand

New York – New York Law Course (NYLC), New York Law Exam (NYLE)

- NYLC: Online, on-demand course consisting of approximately 17-hours of lectures with embedded questions
- Applicants must complete the NYLC before registering for the NYLE
- NYLE: Open-book, 50 question, online multiple-choice test administered three times per year
- Passing score is 60%

Ohio – Ohio Law Component (OLC)

- Open-book, 25-question, online multiple-choice test based on outline materials
- Passing score is 80%

South Carolina – Course of Study on South Carolina Law

- Course of study consisting of 11 video modules, ranging from 30 to 50-minutes, with 3 true/false or multiple-choice questions at the end of each module

Tennessee – Tennessee Law Course (TLC)

- Approximately 7.5-hours of video instruction with 13 state-specific supplemental outlines

Texas – Texas Law Component

- Approximately 12-hours of video instruction on state-specific law; each segment is followed by questions that must be answered correctly to move on to the next segment

Virgin Islands – Virgin Islands Law Component (VILC)

- Open-book, 50-question, online multiple-choice test based on outline materials; must be answered in 90-minutes
- Passing score is 70%

Washington – Washington Law Component (WLC)

- Open-book, 60-question, online multiple-choice test with review materials consisting of 15 state-specific outlines; questions must be answered in 4-hours
- Passing score is 80%

Wisconsin – Wisconsin Law and Practice Educational Component

- A 21-hour educational component covering Wisconsin law and practice
- For applicants seeking admission to the Wisconsin bar via a UBE exam score or a transferred UBE score.

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