

U.S. bar exam checklist

State bar admission checklist for non-U.S. law graduates, lawyers and U.S. LL.M. students



Confirm your eligibility to sit for a U.S. bar exam

Foreign educated lawyers and law graduates may take the bar examination in several U.S. states but the requirements vary from state to state. If you wish to sit a U.S. bar examination, first make sure that you are eligible to do so. Traditionally, the three most common and easily accessible jurisdictions for foreign lawyers have been California, New York, and Texas.

Please visit the website of the state bar exam for which you'd like to sit for more information:

- California: www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Requirements/Education/Legal-Education/Foreign-Education
- New York: www.nybarexam.org/Foreign/ForeignLegalEducation.htm
- Texas: <https://ble.texas.gov/faq.action#266>

Create a NCBE account | before bar exam application



My NCBE number

You 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) and required in every jurisdiction except Louisiana.

Most people create an account when registering for the MPRE.

Here's where to register with the NCBE: www.ncbex.org/exams/mbe/registration/

Apply for the bar exam | by the fall/spring deadlines

Bar exam filing deadline

Each jurisdiction independently decides who may sit for their bar exam and who may be ultimately admitted. You must complete an application to sit your state's bar exam. Your state may have unique, state specific application requirements. Some states also require an additional state law course or exam as part of their admissions requirements.



For more information, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest for International Lawyers, Law Graduates & LL.M.s

barbri-prep.com/extended-bar-course/bar-exam-digest



Pay attention to the filing fees | deadlines vary



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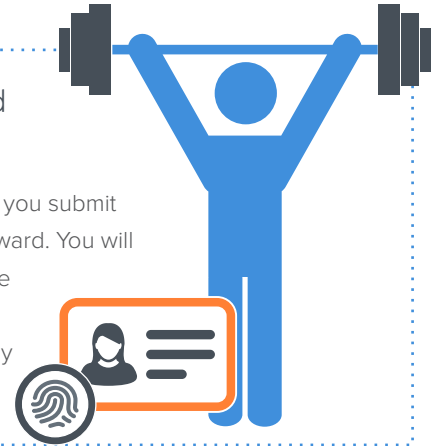
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It's important to think ahead on how you will pay for your state's bar exam fees. There's typically a bar exam fee, on-motion application fee, character and fitness fee, laptop/software fee and more.

Complete the Character and Fitness Application | start early and expect challenging questions

You will be required to submit the Character and Fitness Application. Some states require that you submit this application before you can take the bar exam and other states allow you to submit it afterward. You will be asked to disclose details about your academic, work and financial history, as well as include references, any criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key. It can be an extensive process so give yourself enough time to gather the required information. If you have previously submitted a Character and Fitness application, you may need to submit an update depending on your state's requirements.



Sign notarized Authorization and Release (A&R) form



Moral character application deadline

A notarized A&R provides character and fitness analysts the authority to perform a full background check on you. You'll need to print this form and sign it in the presence of a notary. Depending on your state/jurisdiction, you can upload the A&R to your online account or mail it postmarked no later than the filing deadline for the bar exam. Your bar exam application will not be accepted without a signed and notarized A&R form.

Take the MPRE | required in all but two U.S. jurisdictions

Exam date

Registration deadline

The MPRE (Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination) is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice exam developed by the NCBE and administered three times a year in March, August and November. A passing MPRE score is required for admission to the bars of all but two U.S. jurisdictions — Wisconsin and Puerto Rico.

Depending on the state/jurisdiction, you will be required to achieve a passing score on the MPRE within a specified time either prior to sitting or after passing the bar exam.



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

