California

NCBE National Conference of Bar Examiners
ncbex.org

California has announced that it intends to administer the NextGen UBE in July 2028. Visit https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen (/exams/nextgen) to learn more about the new exam.

California requires the following NCBE exams: MBE and MPRE. Visit Official NCBE Study Aids (https://www.ncbex.org/study-aids) to purchase study aids to help prepare for California exams.

Bar Admission Agency

State Bar of California Office of Admissions
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 538-2300
Fax: (415) 538-2304
Visit Website (https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions)

Character & Fitness Investigations

This jurisdiction does not use NCBE's character and fitness services; please contact California for filing instructions.

MPRE Requirements

MPRE Required **Yes**

MPRE Minimum Passing Score **86**

MPRE Score Time Parameters

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—MPRE Requirements, MBE Score Transfers, and Attorneys' Exams

Minimum passing MPRE score **86**

Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must be earned or achieved? **No**

Are MBE scores accepted for transfer from other jurisdictions? **No**

Is an Attorneys' Exam offered? **Yes**

To qualify for the Attorneys' Exam, must an applicant be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school? **No**

Attorneys' Exam fee **$1,650**

Bar Exam Eligibility, Deadlines, and Fees

ABA-Approved Law School J.D. Required **No**

Domestic Legal Education

Is eligibility to take the bar exam limited to JD or LLB graduates of ABA-approved law schools? **No**

If eligibility to take the bar exam is not limited to JD or LLB graduates of ABA-approved law schools, what other means of domestic legal study are permitted for bar exam applicants?
Non-ABA-approved in-state law school, non-ABA-approved out-of-state law school, law office study, correspondence law school, online law school

Additional requirements —

Foreign Law Graduate Eligibility **Yes**

Foreign Legal Education

Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission by examination? **Yes**

If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible for admission by examination, what additional requirements pertain?
Additional education at an ABA-approved law school, practice of law in foreign jurisdiction, determination of educational equivalency, admission in another US jurisdiction

If a foreign law school graduate obtains an LLM or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar exam on this basis alone?
Yes

Bar Exam Application Filing Deadlines

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Bar Examination Application Deadlines and Fees

July 2026: First filing deadline **April 1**
July 2026: Late filing deadline **June 1**
February 2027: First filing deadline **Nov. 2**
February 2027: Late filing deadline **Jan. 4**
Bar exam fee for first-time takers (non-attorneys) **$878**
Bar exam fee for attorneys **$1,650**
Bar exam fee for repeaters **$878 (non-attorney repeaters) / $1,650 (attorney repeaters)**
Fee for laptops, if permitted **$153**

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Score Portability

Accepts Legacy UBE Score **No**
Accepts NextGen UBE Score **No**
Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **No**
Accepts Transferred MBE Scores **No**

Bar Exam

NextGen UBE **Yes**
Date First Administration **July 2028**
Minimum Passing Score **TBA**
Legacy UBE **No**
Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam **Yes**

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Admission by Examination

Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) **Yes**
Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) **No**
Multistate Performance Test (MPT) **No**
Jurisdiction-drafted exam (essay, multiple-choice, or performance test) **Yes**
How many times may an applicant take the exam without special permission? **no limit**

Minimum Passing Score **1390**

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Grading and Scoring

Average grading/reporting period (February/July exams) **in May/in Nov**
Are both the MBE and a written component administered? **Yes**
Is the written component scaled to the MBE? **Yes**
Are the MBE and written component scores combined? **Yes**
% MBE weight (of combined score) **50**
% MEE and/or local essay weight (of combined score) **(see suppl. remarks)**
% MPT and/or local PT weight (of combined score) **(see suppl. remarks)**
% Local component weight (of combined score) **—**
Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on reported score scale **1,390**
Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on 200-point scale **139**
MPRE minimum passing standard (on scale of 50 to 150) **86**

Admission on Motion

Rules Provide for Admission on Motion **No**

Disclaimer

Since jurisdiction rules and policies change, NCBE strongly advises consulting the jurisdiction's bar admission agency directly for the most current information.