Hawaii

NCBE
National Conference of Bar Examiners
ncbex.org

Hawaii 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.

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

Bar Admission Agency

Board of Examiners Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii
Ali'iolani Hale, Rm. 103 417 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813-2912
Phone: (808) 539-4919
Fax: (808) 539-4978
Email: baradmissions@courts.hawaii.gov
Visit Website (https://www.courts.state.hi.us)

Character & Fitness Investigations

NCBE conducts investigations for some application types.

MPRE Requirements

MPRE Required **Yes**

MPRE Minimum Passing Score **85**

MPRE Score Time Parameters

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

Minimum passing MPRE score **85**

Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must be earned or achieved? **Yes**

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

Is an Attorneys' Exam offered? **No**

To qualify for the Attorneys' Exam, must an applicant be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school? —

Attorneys' Exam fee —

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 out-of-state law school

Additional requirements **Bar admission in another state, specified number of years of practice**

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?
Legal education in English common law, practice of law in foreign 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?
No

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 **—**
February 2027: First filing deadline **Nov. 1**
February 2027: Late filing deadline **—**
Bar exam fee for first-time takers (non-attorneys) **$500 (plus C&F fee)**
Bar exam fee for attorneys **$500 (plus C&F fee)**
Bar exam fee for repeaters **$500 (plus C&F fee)**
Fee for laptops, if permitted **$133.50**

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Score Portability

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

Bar Exam

NextGen UBE **Yes**
Date First Administration **July 2028**
Minimum Passing Score **TBA**
NextGen UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **Yes**

NextGen Bar Exam Jurisdictions—Date of First Administration, Acceptance of Transferred Scores, and Jurisdiction-Specific Components

Date of first NextGen UBE administration **July 2028**
Minimum passing NextGen UBE score **TBA**
Date accepting transferred NextGen UBE scores **—**
Is there a jurisdiction-specific admission prerequisite? **Yes**

Legacy UBE **No**
Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam **Yes**

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Admission by Examination

Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) **Yes**
Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) **Yes**
Multistate Performance Test (MPT) **Yes**
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 **132**

Non–Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Grading and Scoring

Average grading/reporting period (February/July exams) **both 10–12 weeks**
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) **(see suppl. remarks)**
Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on reported score scale **132**
Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on 200-point scale **132**
MPRE minimum passing standard (on scale of 50 to 150) **85**

Admission on Motion

Rules Provide for Admission on Motion **No**

Admission on Motion—Years of Practice and Definition of Practice

Do the rules provide for admission on motion? **No (permitted only on a limited basis)**
What is the number of years of practice required for admission on motion? **—**
What does the definition of practice for purposes of admission on motion include? **Law teaching, military**
Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must have been earned or achieved? **Yes**
Admission on motion fee **$500 (plus C&F fee)**

Legal Education and Reciprocity Requirements

Admission on Motion—Legal Education and Reciprocity Requirements

Must an applicant for admission on motion be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school? **Yes**
Is admission on motion based on reciprocity (that is, is it limited to candidates from some or all jurisdictions offering admission on motion)? **—**
Is an attorney initially admitted by diploma privilege eligible for admission on motion? **—**

Disclaimer

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