

Iowa has announced that it intends to first administer the NextGen bar exam in July 2027. Visit [https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen \(/exams/nextgen\)](https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen (/exams/nextgen)) to learn more about the new exam.

Iowa requires the following NCBE exams: MBE, MEE, MPT, and MPRE. Visit the NCBE Study Aids Store (<https://store.ncbex.org/>) to purchase the Bar Exam Everything Value Pack (<https://store.ncbex.org/the-everything-value-pack/>) which includes MBE, MEE, and MPT study aids; and MPRE study aids (<https://store.ncbex.org/mpre/>) to help prepare for Iowa exams.

Bar Admission Agency

Iowa Board of Law Examiners Office of Professional Regulation

Iowa Judicial Branch Building 1111 East Court Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: [\(515\) 348-4670](tel:(515)348-4670)

Fax: [\(515\) 348-4698](tel:(515)348-4698)

[Visit Website \(https://www.iowacourts.gov\)](https://www.iowacourts.gov)

Character & Fitness Investigations

NCBE conducts investigations for some application types.

MPRE Requirements

MPRE Required **Yes**

MPRE Minimum Passing Score **80**

MPRE Score Time Parameters

Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—MPRE Requirements, MBE Score Transfers, Courtesy Seating, and Attorneys' Exams

Minimum passing MPRE score **80**

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 courtesy seating allowed? **Yes**

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 **Yes**

Foreign Law Graduate Eligibility **No**

Bar Exam Application Filing Deadlines

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) **\$800**

Bar exam fee for attorneys **\$800**

Bar exam fee for repeaters **\$800**

Fee for laptops, if permitted **\$122**

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Score Portability

Accepts Legacy UBE Score **Yes**Minimum Legacy UBE Score **260**Accepts NextGen UBE Score **Yes**Minimum NextGen UBE Score **610**Date First Acceptance NextGen UBE Score **July 2026**Maximum Score Age **2 years/5 years**

Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Admission by Examination or by Transferred UBE Score

Date of first UBE administration **February 2016**Is completing a jurisdiction-specific component required before admission? **No**Minimum passing UBE score **260/266 (see suppl. remarks)**Is there a limit on the number of attempts to earn a passing UBE score? **2**Time limit for accepting a transferred UBE score (i.e., maximum age of the UBE score) **2 years / 5 years**Is concurrent application for admission by transferred UBE score allowed? **No**Application fee for admission by transferred UBE score **\$900**

Notes

Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **No**Accepts Transferred MBE Scores **No**

Iowa's passing score is 260 for July 2026 and after legacy UBE exams and 266 for exams prior to July 2026

Bar Exam

NextGen UBE **Yes**Date First Administration **July 2027**Minimum Passing Score **610**NextGen UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **TBA**Legacy UBE **Yes**Date Final Administration **February 2027**Minimum Passing Score **260**Legacy UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **No**Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam **No**

Admission on Motion

Rules Provide for Admission on Motion **Yes**

Admission on Motion—Years of Practice and Definition of Practice

Do the rules provide for admission on motion? **Yes**

What is the number of years of practice required for admission on motion? **5 of past 7**

What does the definition of practice for purposes of admission on motion include?

Law teaching, gov't agency, military, in-house corporate, judicial court of record

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

Admission on motion fee **\$900 (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? **No**

Is admission on motion based on reciprocity (that is, is it limited to candidates from some or all jurisdictions offering admission on motion)? **No**

Is an attorney initially admitted by diploma privilege eligible for admission on motion? **Yes**

Number of Years of Practice Required **5 of past 7**

Disclaimer

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