Iowa

NCBE National Conference of Bar Examiners
ncbex.org

Iowa has announced that it intends to first administer the NextGen UBE in July 2027. Visit 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 Official NCBE Study Aids (https://www.ncbex.org/study-aids) to purchase study aids 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
Fax: (515) 348-4698
Visit Website (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.