Massachusetts

NCBE
National Conference of Bar Examiners
ncbex.org

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

Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts exams.

Bar Admission Agency

Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners

John Adams Courthouse One Pemberton Square, Suite 5-140
Boston, MA 2108
Phone: (617) 482-4466
Fax: (617) 542-5943
Email: info@bbe.state.ma.us
Visit Website (https://www.mass.gov/bbe)

Character & Fitness Investigations

NCBE conducts investigations only for those seeking admission on motion in Massachusetts.

MPRE Requirements

MPRE Required **Yes**

MPRE Minimum Passing Score **85**

MPRE Score Time Parameters

Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—MPRE Requirements, MBE Score Transfers, Courtesy Seating, 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 courtesy seating allowed? **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 in-state 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, determination of educational equivalency

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

Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Bar Examination Application Deadlines and Fees

July 2026: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
July 2026: Late filing deadline **—**
February 2027: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
February 2027: Late filing deadline **—**
Bar exam fee for first-time takers (non-attorneys) **$815**
Bar exam fee for attorneys **$815**
Bar exam fee for repeaters **$815**
Fee for laptops, if permitted **$175**

July 2026: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
July 2026: Late filing deadline **—**
February 2027: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
February 2027: Late filing deadline **—**

Bar Exam Application Filing Fees

Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Bar Examination Application Deadlines and Fees

July 2026: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
July 2026: Late filing deadline **—**
February 2027: First filing deadline **At least 75 days**
February 2027: Late filing deadline **—**
Bar exam fee for first-time takers (non-attorneys) **$815**
Bar exam fee for attorneys **$815**
Bar exam fee for repeaters **$815**
Fee for laptops, if permitted **$175**

Score Portability

Accepts Legacy UBE Score **Yes**
Minimum Legacy UBE Score **270**
Accepts NextGen UBE Score **Yes**
Minimum NextGen UBE Score **620**
Date First Acceptance NextGen UBE Score **July 2026**
Maximum Score Age **5 years**

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

Date of first UBE administration **July 2018**
Is completing a jurisdiction-specific component required before admission? **Yes**
Minimum passing UBE score **270**
Is there a limit on the number of attempts to earn a passing UBE score? **no limit**
Time limit for accepting a transferred UBE score (i.e., maximum age of the UBE score) **5 years**
Is concurrent application for admission by transferred UBE score allowed? **Yes**
Application fee for admission by transferred UBE score **$815**
Notes

Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **Yes**

Accepts Transferred MBE Scores **No**

Bar Exam

NextGen UBE **Yes**

Date First Administration **July 2028**

Minimum Passing Score **620**

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 **620**

Date accepting transferred NextGen UBE scores **July 2026**

Is there a jurisdiction-specific admission prerequisite? **Yes**

Legacy UBE **Yes**

Date Final Administration **February 2028**

Minimum Passing Score **270**

Legacy UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **Yes**

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

Date of first UBE administration **July 2018**

Is completing a jurisdiction-specific component required before admission? **Yes**

Minimum passing UBE score **270**

Is there a limit on the number of attempts to earn a passing UBE score? **no limit**

Time limit for accepting a transferred UBE score (i.e., maximum age of the UBE score) **5 years**

Is concurrent application for admission by transferred UBE score allowed? **Yes**

Application fee for admission by transferred UBE score **$815**

Notes

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 **$1,015 (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**

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 **$1,015 (plus C&F fee)**

Disclaimer

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