

South Dakota has announced that it intends to administer the NextGen bar exam in July 2027. Visit <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen> (/exams/nextgen) to learn more about the new exam.

South Dakota 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 South Dakota exams.

Bar Admission Agency

South Dakota Board of Bar Examiners

500 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: [\(605\) 773-4898](tel:(605)773-4898)

Fax: [\(605\) 773-8479](tel:(605)773-8479)

[Visit Website \(https://ujs.sd.gov/\)](https://ujs.sd.gov/)

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? **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 **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?

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?

No

Bar Exam Application Filing Deadlines

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

July 2026: First filing deadline **May 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) **\$450**
 Bar exam fee for attorneys **\$450**
 Bar exam fee for repeaters **\$450**
 Fee for laptops, if permitted **\$100**

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Score Portability

Accepts Legacy UBE Score **No**

Accepts NextGen UBE Score **Yes**

Minimum NextGen UBE Score **620**

Date First Acceptance NextGen UBE Score **July 2026**

Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **No**

Accepts Transferred MBE Scores **Yes**

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? **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

NextGen UBE **Yes**

Date First Administration **July 2027**

Minimum Passing Score **TBA**

NextGen UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement **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) **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? **3**

Minimum Passing Score —

Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Grading and ScoringAverage grading/reporting period (February/July exams) **both 6–8 weeks**Are both the MBE and a written component administered? **Yes**Is the written component scaled to the MBE? **No (see suppl. remarks)**Are the MBE and written component scores combined? **No**

% MBE weight (of combined score) —

% MEE and/or local essay weight (of combined score) —

% MPT and/or local PT weight (of combined score) —

% Local component weight (of combined score) —

Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on reported score scale —

Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on 200-point scale —

MPRE minimum passing standard (on scale of 50 to 150) **85****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? **3 of past 5**

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

Gov't agency, military, in-house corporate, judicial court of record, sole practitioner, member of law firmAre there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must have been earned or achieved? **Yes**Admission on motion fee **\$650 (plus other fees)**

Legal Education and Reciprocity Requirements

Admission on Motion—Legal Education and Reciprocity RequirementsMust 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)? **Yes**Is an attorney initially admitted by diploma privilege eligible for admission on motion? **Yes**Number of Years of Practice Required **3 of past 5****Disclaimer**

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