

South Dakota has announced that it intends to administer the NextGen bar exam in July 2027. Visit [https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen \(/exams/nextgen\)](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 \(https://store.ncbex.org/\)](https://store.ncbex.org/) to purchase the [Bar Exam Everything Value Pack \(https://store.ncbex.org/the-everything-value-pack/\)](https://store.ncbex.org/the-everything-value-pack/) which includes MBE, MEE, and MPT study aids; and [MPRE study aids \(https://store.ncbex.org/mpre/\)](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 **TBA**

Date First Acceptance NextGen UBE Score **TBA**

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 Scoring

Average 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**

Visit the [NCBE Study Aids Store \(https://store.ncbex.org/\)](https://store.ncbex.org/) for official test prep materials

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 firm
Are 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 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)? **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.