NextGen

UBE™

Uniform Bar Examination

# Official Examinees' Guide to the NextGen UBE

## July 2026–February 2027

Prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners

**AUGUST 1, 2025**

This Official Guide covers the July 2026 and February 2027 administrations of the NextGen UBE. Any changes to the Official Guide for future exams will be published one year prior to the date that they take effect.

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Building a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.

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# Welcome to the NextGen UBE

We are pleased to welcome you to the Official Examinees' Guide to the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination (NextGen UBE), a resource you can turn to throughout your time in law school and during your preparation for the NextGen exam. This Guide includes practical information to help you succeed—from understanding the skills and knowledge tested on the exam to knowing what to expect on exam day, how the exam is administered, how scores are used and transferred, and how to access resources to help you as you prepare.

We know how hard you've worked to reach this point, and we know you're focused on the work you still need to do to prepare for the NextGen UBE. But we also want to take a moment to tell you a little bit about how we got here.

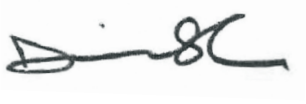
In 2018, the National Conference of Bar Examiners launched a nationwide study designed to ensure that the bar exam continued to test the knowledge and skills that new lawyers needed to have. The study included listening sessions with bar examiners and bar administrators, law school deans and faculty members, and lawyers and judges, as well as a nationwide practice analysis survey completed by nearly 15,000 practicing attorneys. It concluded in 2021 with a set of recommendations for developing a new bar exam.

This was the beginning of the NextGen UBE. NCBE then assembled a group of experts from across the country—law professors, lawyers, and judges; lawyer editors; and testing and psychometric professionals—and over the next few years, through many thousands of hours of collaborative work, the NextGen UBE was created. Those years included multiple rounds of testing, during which we asked law students and recent graduates to answer drafts of new questions, and eventually to sit for full-length simulated exams. Based on participants' feedback and the performance data we gathered from those tests across thousands of examinees, we repeatedly revised and reworked the exam questions, format, and experience until we were satisfied that they met the high standards the bar exam requires.[1] The result is a thoroughly validated exam that is highly relevant to today's practice of law.

So you can rest assured that the NextGen UBE you'll be taking is tried and tested. You just need to prepare well, take care of yourself, and show up on exam day ready to do your best. NCBE and your jurisdiction have worked hard to make sure that your experience before, during, and after exam day will be smooth so you can stay focused on what matters: demonstrating your legal knowledge and skills so you can take the next step on your career path.

On behalf of NCBE's leadership, volunteers, and staff, we wish you all the best as you prepare to take the NextGen UBE.

Judith A. Gundersen
NCBE President & CEO



Darin Scheer
Chair, NCBE Board of Trustees

1 For information on the research conducted during the development of the NextGen UBE, visit nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org.

# Online Resources

**NextGen UBE on the NCBE Website**
ncbex.org/exams/nextgen

**Official Study Aids**
ncbex.org/study-aids

**NextGen Research Reports**
nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org/

**Jurisdiction Information**
ncbex.org/exams/jurisdictions

**Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements**
reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide

**Sign up for NCBE's monthly Countdown to the NextGen UBE emails at:**
ncbex.org/exams/nextgen

# About the National Conference of Bar Examiners

The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1931. NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in bar admissions for the benefit and protection of the public, in pursuit of its vision of a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession. Best known for developing bar exam content used by 54 US jurisdictions, NCBE serves admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates for attorney licensure by providing high-quality assessment products, services, and research; character investigations; and informational and educational resources and programs. For more information, visit the NCBE website at ncbex.org.

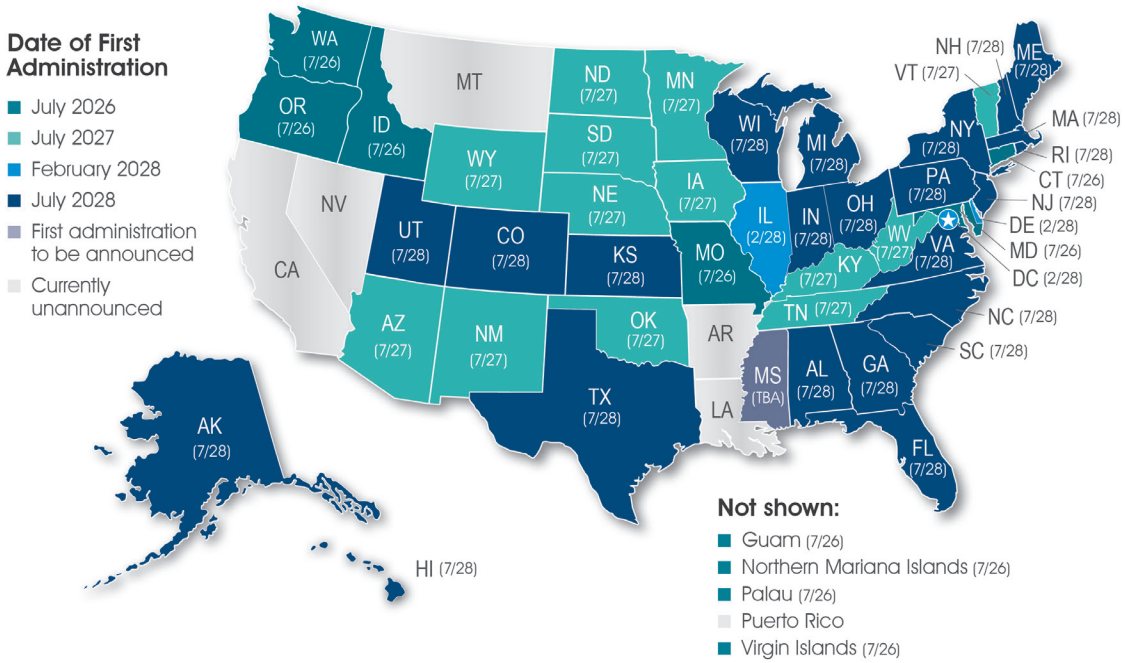
# July 2026–February 2027 NextGen UBE Jurisdictions

The following jurisdictions will administer the NextGen UBE in July 2026 and February 2027. For information on other jurisdictions, visit NCBE's NextGen UBE page.

- Connecticut
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/CT
- Guam
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/GU
- Idaho
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/ID
- Maryland
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/MD
- Missouri
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/MO
- Northern Mariana Islands
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/MP
- Oregon
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/OR
- Palau
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/PW
  *(Palau's test site is located in Guam for the July 2026 and February 2027 bar exams)*
- US Virgin Islands
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/VI
- Washington
  ncbex.org/jurisdictions/WA

No additional jurisdictions will administer the NextGen UBE in July 2026.

## NextGen UBE Adoption as of June 15, 2026




The above map shows US jurisdictions that have adopted the NextGen UBE and their dates of first administration. As of June 15, 2026, 10 jurisdictions will begin administering the NextGen UBE in July 2026, 13 in July 2027, 3 in February 2028, 23 in July 2028; 1 jurisdiction has not yet announced its first administration date. Visit NCBE's NextGen UBE page for the most current information.

# About the NextGen UBE

The NextGen UBE, like the current (or "legacy") UBE, typically is administered following completion of your legal education[2] and prior to licensure as a practicing attorney. It is designed to assess your overall competency in the legal knowledge and skills expected of a newly licensed lawyer (defined as a lawyer within the first three years of practice).

While the NextGen UBE will eventually replace the legacy UBE in the majority of US jurisdictions (US states, territories, and the District of Columbia), during the period from July 2026 to February 2028, jurisdictions have the option to administer either exam, although not both. Starting in July 2028, the legacy UBE will be retired and the NextGen UBE will remain in use for all jurisdictions that choose to administer it.

The NextGen UBE has been developed and refined through multiple rounds of research testing with thousands of participants, including a full-scale beta administration that evaluated all major components of the testing experience, including registration, exam delivery, grading, and score reporting. For more information about the extensive research behind the NextGen UBE, visit nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org.

2 Some jurisdictions permit examinees to sit for the bar exam prior to graduation or without earning a JD or LLM degree. Visit reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide/charts/chart-1/ for information on prelegal education requirements, law student registration, and bar exam eligibility before graduation.

## The NextGen UBE

- Developed by NCBE after a multi-year empirical study, including significant input from justices and judges, attorneys, and legal educators
- Designed to ensure that newly licensed attorneys demonstrate competence to serve the public ethically and effectively
- Tests a broad range of foundational lawyering skills, utilizing a focused set of clearly identified fundamental legal concepts and principles needed in today's practice of law
- Balances the skills and knowledge needed in litigation and transactional legal practice
- Uses a secure digital testing platform rated as intuitive and easy to use by more than 92% of beta test participants
- Fully replaces the legacy UBE starting in July 2028; preserves bar exam score portability among the administering jurisdictions

# NextGen vs. Legacy UBE

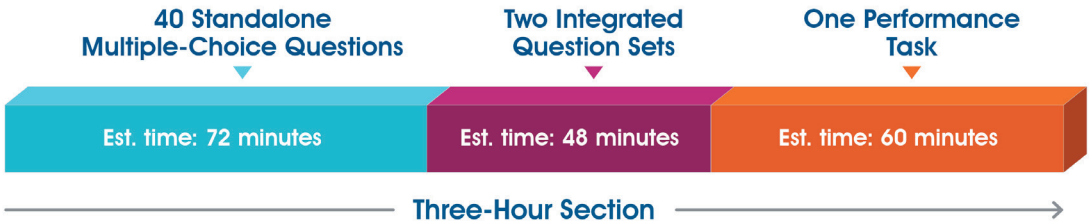
## What's Changing, What Remains the Same?

| | Legacy UBE | NextGen UBE |
|---|---|---|
| Administration Dates | Administered twice yearly, on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July | Administered twice yearly, on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July |
| Exam Length | Twelve hours over two days | Nine hours over 1.5 days |
| Administration Locations & Proctoring | Exam given at jurisdiction-managed and proctored testing sites | Exam given at jurisdiction-managed and proctored testing sites |
| Exam Delivery | Printed materials; Scantrons used for multiple-choice questions, examinees' laptops used to write essay and performance task assignments | Fully computer-based exam; examinees test using their own laptops and NCBE's secure testing browser |
| Cost | Jurisdiction application fee plus exam software fee (typically between $90 and $150) | Jurisdiction application fee plus exam software fee ($149) |
| Test Accommodations | Jurisdictions make accommodations decisions | Jurisdictions make accommodations decisions; exam software is designed to reduce the need for some accommodations requests |
| Scoring & Grading | Multiple-choice questions are graded by NCBE, written responses are graded by your jurisdiction; scores are reported by your jurisdiction | Multiple-choice questions are graded by NCBE, written responses are graded by your jurisdiction; scores are reported by your jurisdiction |
| Score Portability | Produces portable score for transfer to participating jurisdictions | Produces portable score for transfer to participating jurisdictions |
| Question Types | Multiple-choice questions, essays, performance tests | Multiple-choice questions, integrated question sets, performance tasks |
| Subject Matter | **Legal knowledge:** business associations, civil procedure, constitutional law, contract law, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts<br><br>**Legal skills:** issue spotting, legal analysis and reasoning, factual analysis, communication, organization and management of a legal task, recognizing and resolving legal dilemmas<br><br>Note: Effective with the July 2026 bar exam, the following areas will no longer be tested on the MEE portion of the legacy UBE: conflict of laws, family law, trusts and estates, and secured transactions. For information on the content of the legacy UBE, visit ncbex.org/exams/ube/about-ube. | **Legal knowledge:** business associations and relationships, civil procedure, constitutional law, contract law, criminal law and constitutional protections of accused persons, evidence, real property, torts<br><br>**Legal skills:** legal research, legal writing, issue spotting and analysis, investigation and evaluation, client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, client relationship and management |

# Exam Structure and Timing

The NextGen UBE is made up of three sections of three hours each, administered over one and a half days, with the second day occurring on the last Wednesday of February and July and the first day occurring on the Tuesday prior to that.[3]

Each NextGen exam section contains a combination of standalone multiple-choice questions, integrated question sets, and performance tasks. In each three-hour section, the questions are arranged in the following order:




Based on research to date, the expectation is that you will typically take

- 1.8 minutes per standalone multiple-choice question;
- 24 minutes per integrated question set; and
- 60 minutes per performance task.

Information on each type of question is found in the Question Types section of this Guide.

# Exam Registration and Administration

## Before the Exam

Your preparation for the NextGen UBE extends beyond reviewing your legal knowledge—it includes a series of required steps that ensure you're eligible, equipped, and ready to take the exam in a secure, stable testing environment. These steps begin months before the exam date and must be completed on time.

3 Examinees receiving test accommodations should check with their jurisdictions about the schedule established for extended-time administration. Examinees testing in Guam/Palau and the Northern Mariana Islands should check with their jurisdictions for information on their local testing schedules.

## Establishing Your NCBE Account

Every examinee must have an NCBE Account, which serves as your official portal to the bar exam. You'll use it to receive updates, complete required actions, access the exam software, and transfer your score to other jurisdictions. Please check your NCBE Account frequently in the months leading up to the bar exam.

- When you create your account at ncbex.org, you'll be issued an NCBE Number—a unique number that identifies you across all communications with NCBE and your jurisdiction.
- This number will be used when you register for the exam, request accommodations, access the secure testing browser, and log in on exam day. It's important to keep your NCBE Account information accurate and up to date.
- Your full legal name, date of birth, and contact information must match your official ID and jurisdictional records, and your email address must be one that won't change before your official licensure. If any of this information changes, update your profile immediately.

## Registering with Your Jurisdiction

Although the exam is developed and delivered by NCBE, your official registration begins with the jurisdiction in which you plan to sit for the bar.

Each jurisdiction sets its own deadlines, requirements, and policies for admission. Once you apply, your jurisdiction will verify your eligibility and—if approved—will submit your name to NCBE on an official roster of examinees authorized to test.

If you're considering multiple jurisdictions, be aware that you can appear on only one official exam roster per administration. If you're listed on more than one, you'll be required to choose a single jurisdiction before you're allowed to move forward with the exam. NCBE will not process further exam steps until this is resolved, and both jurisdictions will be notified of your selection.

## Requesting Test Accommodations

NCBE is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to examinees with documented disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. NCBE will assist jurisdictions in making reasonable modifications to testing procedures that might otherwise prevent individuals with disabilities from taking the bar exam in an accessible place and manner, provided such modifications do not result in a fundamental alteration to the examination, impose an undue burden, or jeopardize examination security.

All test accommodations applications are made to, and decisions are made by, the individual testing jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction has its own accommodations forms, deadlines, and process; examinees seeking test accommodations should look to their jurisdictions for guidance. Please review the Exam Software section of this Guide for information that may help to inform your request for test accommodations.

To ensure a smooth process, begin preparing your accommodations request early and communicate directly with your jurisdiction if you have questions.

## Completing Mandatory Pre-Exam Requirements

All examinees are required to complete a series of technology and policy readiness steps before exam day. These steps ensure that your laptop is properly configured, that you're familiar with the digital testing environment, and that all technical issues are resolved well in advance of exam day. NCBE will notify you when it's time to take each step.

You must complete the following:

### 1 Candidate Agreement

You'll be required to read and accept all relevant policies related to exam-day conduct, security, technology use, and examinee responsibilities. These policies are non-negotiable and must be reviewed before access to the testing platform is granted.

### 2 Technology Fee Payment

The $149 technology fee supports the cost of exam delivery and technical support. Payment is made through your NCBE Account. This fee is separate from any jurisdictional application fees.

### 3 Secure Testing Browser Installation

The secure testing browser must be installed on the same laptop you plan to bring to the exam. If you need to switch laptops prior to exam day, you may do so by downloading the secure testing browser and then completing the system compatibility check on your new laptop. There is no fee to switch laptops.

### 4 Exam Tutorial and System Compatibility Check

The interactive exam tutorial introduces the secure testing browser and its features. You'll see how questions are presented, how to navigate between them, and how to use tools like highlighting, notetaking, and screen splitting. Completing this tutorial ensures you're comfortable with the platform before exam day. The system compatibility check, which runs at the same time as the exam tutorial, confirms that your laptop's hardware, operating system, and internet configuration meet the requirements for the secure testing browser.

Note: Examinees receiving certain test accommodations requiring physical exam materials, such as braille, will receive accommodation-specific instructions.

**Each step must be completed no later than 72 hours before exam day. If you fail to complete any of the steps on time, you will not be permitted to sit for the exam.**

# During the Exam

**To be admitted to the testing room and allowed to take the exam, you must bring the following:**

**The same laptop** you used to complete the exam tutorial and system compatibility check

**A functional charger,** with the expectation that your laptop will remain plugged in for the duration of the exam

**A valid government-issued photo ID,** such as a driver's license or passport; the name on your ID must match your NCBE Account

**Your NCBE Number,** unless your jurisdiction provides it onsite

Examinees who fail to bring any of the above items will not be permitted to sit for the exam. Backup laptops are available for true in-exam emergencies related to software failure, but will not be issued to examinees who are not fully prepared. Your jurisdiction will have additional requirements—be sure to pay attention to these as the exam approaches. For more information about exam-day policies, visit ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/nextgen-ube-test-day-policies.

## Launching the Exam

Once you have checked in and are seated, a proctor will conduct a series of pre-launch checks. These include verifying attendance and ensuring you are logged into the exam delivery platform. When all examinees are ready, the proctor will read aloud the session ID, and all examinees will launch the exam at the same time. The uniform launch protocol ensures that all examinees begin testing simultaneously and that the secure browser functions as intended. Examinees who are not ready at the designated start time may not be permitted to test.

## Exam Software, Technology Requirements, and Connectivity

The NextGen UBE is a digitally delivered examination administered through a secure testing browser. This means that the questions are given to you through the browser and your answers are also submitted through the browser.

A free online preview of the exam software is available at ncbex.org/exams/nextgen. NextGen UBE study aids presented in the official NextGen platform are available to purchase at ngstudyaids.ncbex.org.

**You will have access to the following tools in the exam software:**

## All Questions

- Section countdown timer with five-minute warning (timer may be toggled off by examinee until the five-minute warning)
- Exam navigation tool, which shows which questions are answered, partially answered, unanswered, or marked for review, and provides easy navigation to each question in the section
- Highlighting in four colors
- Color scheme adjustment (light/dark and high contrast)
- Zoom (resize text)
- Mark questions for review

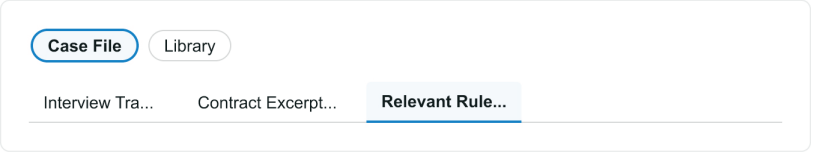
## Multiple-Choice Questions

- Answer choice strike-through

## Integrated Question Sets and Performance Tasks (written responses)

- Split-screen feature that allows examinees to view question and answer at the same time; mid-screen pull bar can be used to adjust size of question and answer views
- Notepad (text in notepad is not graded)
- Spell check
- Copy-paste from the provided documents to the answer fields and both copy-paste and cut-paste within and between the answer fields and notepad
- Undo/redo
- Bulleted and numbered lists, indent, bold, italics, underline, tab
- Sample toolbar:

- Legal resources, including libraries and case file materials, are presented in-screen in tabbed sections
- Sample document navigation:



**In addition, the following assistive technologies are supported by the exam software:**[4]

### Built-In Tools for Test Accommodations

- E-reader integration
- Voice-to-text integration

Your testing location will be equipped with both standard and backup Wi-Fi access. You must connect to the Wi-Fi at the start of each exam section. If your Wi-Fi connectivity is lost temporarily, your responses will be saved on your laptop, and the exam will continue. However, reconnection is required before you can begin the next section or leave at the end of each exam day.

## Onsite Technical Support

The NextGen UBE platform has undergone extensive testing, including large-scale operational testing designed to evaluate system stability and recovery procedures. NCBE and jurisdictions maintain procedures to address technical issues should they occur during testing.

In addition to the exam proctors, technical proctors will be on hand at each exam location to provide platform-specific support during the exam. In the unlikely event that the secure testing browser on your laptop does not function correctly during the exam, and provided that you have met all technical requirements by the deadline, a technical proctor may authorize use of a backup laptop supplied by NCBE. Backup laptops are reserved for in-session emergencies and are not available to examinees who fail to complete the pre-exam requirements or who bring incompatible devices to the exam.

4 All test accommodations applications are made to, and decisions are made by, the individual testing jurisdiction.

# NextGen UBE Content

## Question Types

**The NextGen UBE contains three categories of questions: standalone multiple-choice questions, integrated question sets, and performance tasks.**

Samples of each question type are available on the NCBE website at ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/sample-questions. NextGen UBE study aids presented in the official NextGen platform are also available to purchase at ngstudyaids.ncbex.org.

### Standalone Multiple-Choice Questions

- Multiple-choice questions in two formats: Select one of four options (select-one multiple-choice questions) and select two of six options (select-two multiple-choice questions)
- 40 questions per section, 120 questions total
- Test eight Foundational Concepts and Principles, presented in approximately equal numbers
- Some questions may test more than one of the Foundational Concepts and Principles
- Questions are independent from each other; the answer for any one question does not rely on information from any other question
- Expected time: approximately 1.8 minutes per question
- Partial credit is available for select-two multiple-choice questions
- Standalone multiple-choice questions make up 49% of the total exam score

### Integrated Question Sets

- Question sets based on a common fact scenario, appearing in two formats: drafting sets and counseling sets. Drafting sets contain medium-answer questions; counseling sets contain multiple-choice and short-answer questions
- Two question sets per section, six sets total
- Require examinees to demonstrate their ability to use Foundational Skills in realistic situations, completing tasks that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish
- May feature areas of doctrinal law, with accompanying legal resources, not included in the Foundational Concepts and Principles[5]

5 An explanation of these other areas of doctrinal law is found in the Knowledge and Skills section.

# Question Types *continued*

## Integrated Question Sets *continued*

- May test more than one of the Foundational Concepts and Principles and/or non-Foundational area of doctrinal law; the Foundational Concepts and Principles are not equally distributed among the integrated question sets
- May include legal resources (e.g., excerpts of statutes or judicial opinions) and/or supplemental documents (e.g., a police report or excerpt from a deposition)
- Expected time: approximately 24 minutes per question set
- Partial credit is available for short- and medium-answer responses and for select-two multiple-choice questions
- Integrated question sets make up 21% of the total exam score

## Performance Tasks

- Performance tasks in two formats: standard performance tasks focus on a single longer writing assignment; legal research performance tasks include several multiple-choice and short-answer questions followed by a medium-answer writing assignment
- One performance task per section, three tasks total
- Require examinees to demonstrate their ability to use Foundational Skills in realistic situations, completing tasks that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish
- Legal resources, in the form of a case file and library, are provided within each task
- Expected time: approximately one hour per task
- Partial credit is available for short-, medium-, and longer-answer responses and for select-two multiple-choice questions
- Performance tasks make up 30% of the total exam score

## Pretest Questions

- Pretest questions comprise 20 of the 120 standalone multiple-choice questions and one of the six integrated question sets[6]
- Pretest questions do not contribute to the examinee's score
- Pretest questions are not identified as such and are indistinguishable from the scored items

6 Performance tasks are pretested independent of the live NextGen exam.

## Knowledge and Skills

Official NextGen UBE content scope outlines are available on the NCBE website at ncbex.org/exams/nextgen. Updates to the content scope are published no later than one year before the administration in which those updates will first appear. Official NextGen UBE Sourcebooks of Law are also available to most examinees through their law school libraries and to all through NCBE's official Study Aids.

From July 2026 to February 2028, the NextGen UBE will test the following Foundational Concepts and Principles and Foundational Skills:

- **Foundational Concepts and Principles:** business associations and relationships, civil procedure, constitutional law, contract law, criminal law and constitutional protections of accused persons, evidence, real property, torts
- **Foundational Skills:** legal research, legal writing, issue spotting and analysis, investigation and evaluation, client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, client relationship and management

Issues related to the rules of professional responsibility frequently arise in the context of certain Foundational Skills. Select Model Rules of Professional Conduct are tested in the context of client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, and client relationship and management. Knowledge of those rules are assessed with the expectation of recalled knowledge and understanding on the part of the examinee.

Other areas of legal knowledge will also appear on the NextGen UBE to provide the context for testing one or more Foundational Skills, but you are not expected or required to develop a base of knowledge in those areas. For those questions, you will be provided with the necessary legal resources (e.g., statutes, regulations, and case law) to demonstrate the skills being tested.

## Starred and Unstarred Topics

Within the content scope outlines, there are two types of topics:

### Topics with a star symbol ★

Topics followed by a star symbol require an examinee to rely solely on recalled knowledge and understanding of the topic; they will be tested without provision of legal resources. **Note:** Select Model Rules of Professional Conduct are included in the starred category.

### Topics without a star symbol

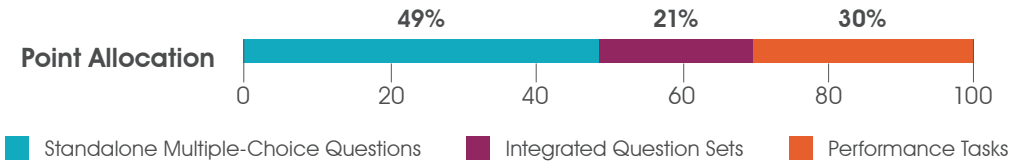
Topics without a star symbol may be tested with or without provision of legal resources. When these topics are tested without legal resources, the examinee is expected to rely on recalled knowledge and understanding that will enable the examinee to demonstrate recognition that the topic is at issue in the fact scenario.

# Scoring, Grading, and Portability

## Score Scale and Point Values

Official NextGen UBE scores are reported as a single number on a scale from 500 to 750. Each jurisdiction establishes its own passing score within this range. Check your jurisdiction's page on the NCBE website for information about its required passing score.

Standalone multiple-choice questions make up 49%, integrated question sets make up 21%, and performance tasks make up 30% of the overall exam score.




Point values for each question type are:

### Standalone Multiple-Choice Questions

- Select one of four options: 0–1 points
- Select two of six options: 0–2 points
- Partial credit is available for select-two multiple-choice questions

### Integrated Question Sets: Drafting Sets

- Medium-answer responses: 0–8 points
- Partial credit is available for medium-answer responses

### Integrated Question Sets: Counseling Sets

- Select one of four options: 0–1 points
- Select two of six options: 0–2 points
- Short-answer responses: 0–2 points
- Partial credit is available for short-answer responses and select-two multiple-choice questions

### Standard Performance Tasks

- Longer-answer responses: 0–24 points
- Partial credit is available for longer-answer responses

### Legal Research Performance Tasks

- Select one of four options: 0–1 points (double weighted)[7]
- Select two of six options: 0–2 points (double weighted)
- Short-answer responses: 0–2 points (double weighted)
- Medium-answer responses: 0–8 points
- Partial credit is available for short- and medium-answer responses and for select-two multiple-choice questions

Where partial credit is available, credit is given in full-point rather than half-point increments.

7 Double weighting refers to the weight of the question within the performance task as a whole. For example, one point earned on a double-weighted question will count as two points toward the total performance task score.

# Scoring, Grading, and Equating

The NextGen exam is equated to ensure that an official NextGen UBE score earned in any jurisdiction and at any administration will have the same meaning as any other NextGen UBE score. The equating process ensures that you will not be at an advantage or at a disadvantage for taking the exam in one month (or one jurisdiction) versus another. Scoring and grading of the NextGen UBE is performed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Multiple-Choice Questions** | ▪ Scored by NCBE |
| **Integrated Question Sets and Performance Tasks (written responses)** | ▪ Graded by jurisdiction-appointed graders on a common grading platform using detailed, uniform grading rubrics provided by NCBE<br>▪ Grader training provided by NCBE<br>▪ Graders assign points to each response based on guidelines provided by the grading rubrics; responses will not be graded or ranked relative to other examinees' responses<br>▪ Jurisdiction graders assess written responses only from examinees within their own jurisdiction<br>▪ Monitoring for grading consistency provided by jurisdiction administrators and grading leads<br>▪ Responses are dual graded, with grade reconciliation performed by jurisdiction grading leads |
| **Final Score Calculations** | ▪ All scaling and equating performed by NCBE<br>▪ Final scores calculated by NCBE and reported to examinees by jurisdictions<br>▪ Official NextGen UBE scores are portable<br>▪ Transfer of official NextGen UBE scores performed by NCBE |

## Score Portability

Score portability is a central feature of the NextGen UBE, helping support mobility and flexibility for candidates. To learn whether you can transfer your score to a particular jurisdiction, review the information on the jurisdiction pages of the NCBE website.

Here's how portability works:

1. Your testing jurisdiction will notify you of your official NextGen UBE score.[8]

2. Check to find out if your score meets or exceeds the required score for the jurisdiction you'd like to transfer it to. Note that you don't need to have passed in your original jurisdiction—you just need a high enough score for the jurisdiction to which you plan to transfer your score.

3. The jurisdiction to which you intend to transfer will have additional requirements for admission; these typically include paying an application fee, completing a new character and fitness investigation, and earning a passing score on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination. Some jurisdictions will also require an exam or course in local law. Visit the jurisdiction's website for details.

4. Approximately two weeks after you receive your score, you'll be able to initiate the score transfer process through your NCBE Account. All requests to have UBE scores transferred to a different jurisdiction must be submitted through your NCBE Account.

8 Please note that in some jurisdictions, you may also receive a score for a separate, local exam; the local and NextGen scores are never combined for use in applying to a different jurisdiction.

**The Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements contains information to help you compare jurisdiction policies and requirements.**

In most jurisdictions, qualifying scores from both the legacy UBE and the NextGen UBE will be accepted for transfer. Check your jurisdiction's page on the NCBE website to confirm:

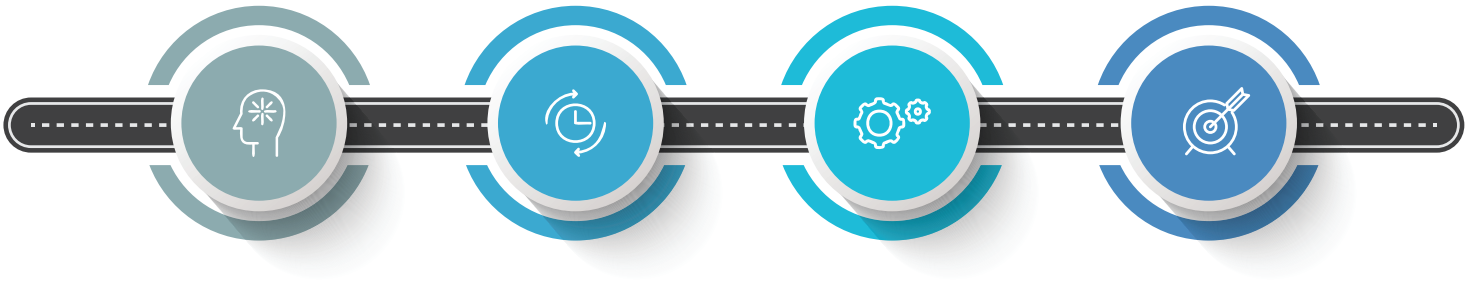
- **Does the jurisdiction accept scores from both exams or just one?**
- **When will the jurisdiction first accept transferred NextGen UBE scores?**
- **What score is required for each exam?** (Note that the score scales for the legacy UBE and the NextGen UBE are different.)
- **How long do you have to transfer your score before the score "expires" in that jurisdiction?** For example, some jurisdictions will accept scores that are no more than three years old, but some will accept scores for five years.

For up-to-date information about jurisdiction score acceptance policies, visit the NextGen UBE Decisions by Jurisdiction page.

# Conclusion & Contact Information

We hope that this Guide has provided a useful overview of everything you need to know as you prepare to take the NextGen UBE. As you continue your preparations, be sure to take advantage of the many other resources that are available to you.

Consult your law school's academic and bar success support staff for guidance and strategies, and don't hesitate to reach out to your jurisdiction or to NCBE's Candidate Services department if you have specific questions about exam policies or requirements. Jurisdiction contact information can be found on your jurisdiction's information page at ncbex.org/jurisdictions, and the Candidate Services department can be reached through NCBE's Contact page. Preparing for the NextGen UBE is a significant undertaking, but with the right preparation and support, you can approach the exam with confidence.



# Attorney Admissions Road Map

Your bar admissions journey begins long before law school graduation. Use this guide to help ensure that you stay on track over the next few years. Need advice on your path to licensure? Contact your law school's academic support and bar success professionals.

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

## 1L Year

### General Admissions

Review admissions requirements for the jurisdictions(s) in which you might want to be licensed (some will require that you submit documentation before your 3L year).

Create your NCBE Account.

### Bar Exam

Choose courses for your 2L year, keeping bar exam topics in mind. Seek out guidance from academic advisement.

Start thinking about your post-graduation study plan (consider finances, your school's bar prep options, bar prep courses, etc.).

### Character & Fitness

Review the character and fitness section of your law school application (using NCBE's sample application as a guide) and update/clarify the information you've provided to your school, as needed.

Concerned about anything in your history that might be an issue during the character and fitness process? Seek out your law school's bar success office for guidance.

## 2L Year

### General Admissions

Check in with your law school's bar success office and attend information sessions about bar applications and preparation.

Some schools and/or jurisdictions also have bar mentorship programs you can access.

### Bar Exam

Continue selecting courses with bar exam topics in mind.

Consider taking the MPRE during or just after your school's professional responsibility course.

Pick your bar prep program and sign up for law school-sponsored prep courses (if applicable).

### Character & Fitness

Keep updating the character and fitness section of your law school application as needed.

Start gathering required information for your jurisdiction's character and fitness application forms (addresses, employment, legal history, credit, etc.).

*Continued >*

# Attorney Admissions Road Map *continued*

## 3L Year

### General Admissions

Confirm your jurisdiction's deadlines, policies, and fees.

Submit your application for admission (note that some jurisdictions use a two-part application process—one for the exam and one for character and fitness).

Confirm that the email and mailing addresses in your NCBE Account will remain current through the bar admissions process (permanent, non-.edu email addresses are preferred).

### Bar Exam

Sign up to receive NCBE's monthly NextGen UBE emails at ncbex.org/exams/nextgen.

Watch your email for important registration information.

### Character & Fitness

Keep updating the character and fitness section of your law school application as needed.

Fill out and submit your jurisdiction's character and fitness application (this may be the same as the application for admission).

Candor matters! Not sure about whether to disclose an issue on your character and fitness application? Your law school's bar success office can provide guidance.

## Post-Graduation

### General Admissions

Continue to meet all deadlines; check your jurisdiction's emails and website for updates.

Complete any additional requirements. Update your email and mailing addresses in your NCBE Account (permanent, non-.edu email addresses are preferred).

Verify that you have sent your MPRE score and all other required documents to your jurisdiction.

### Bar Exam

Prepare to sit for the exam. Check in with your law school's bar success office for resources and guidance.

Watch your email and NCBE Account for essential bar exam information and next steps, including exam location, technology requirements, and exam-day policies.

### Character & Fitness

Watch for communications from NCBE's and/or your jurisdiction's investigators. Be sure to regularly check your NCBE Account for correspondence.

Update your character and fitness application immediately if any required information has changed.

*Continued >*

## Attorney Admissions Road Map *continued*

### Post-Exam

#### General Admissions

Verify that your NCBE Account contains your permanent email address.

Considering licensure in additional jurisdictions? Check out the UBE transfer information on the NCBE website.

#### Bar Exam

Watch for score release information.

Confirm that you have completed all jurisdiction-specific requirements.

#### Character & Fitness

Watch for communications from NCBE's and/or your jurisdiction's investigators.

Continue to update your character and fitness application until admitted.

### Post-Admissions

Once you're formally licensed, you can officially call yourself a lawyer. **Congratulations!**

**For guidance on which exam your jurisdiction will administer or for help with bar preparation resources, please contact your law school's academic or bar success office.**

**My law school's academic support/bar success contact is:**

Enter name here:

# Online Resources

**NextGen UBE on the NCBE Website**
ncbex.org/exams/nextgen

**Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements**
reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide

**NextGen Research Reports**
nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org/

**Official Study Aids**
ncbex.org/study-aids

**Jurisdiction Information**
ncbex.org/exams/jurisdictions

**Sign up for NCBE's monthly Countdown to the NextGen UBE emails at:**
ncbex.org/exams/nextgen

National Conference of Bar Examiners

Building a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners, founded in 1931, is a not-for-profit corporation that develops licensing tests for bar admission and provides character and fitness investigation services. NCBE also provides testing, research, and educational services to jurisdictions; provides services to bar applicants on behalf of jurisdictions; and acts as a national clearinghouse for information about the bar examination and bar admissions.

## Our Mission

NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in admission to the legal profession for the benefit and protection of the public. We serve admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates by providing high-quality

- assessment products, services, and research
- character investigations
- informational and educational resources and programs

## Our Vision

A competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.

NextGen UBE Uniform Bar Examination

Last revision June 2026 (map updated, links updated, information added about NextGen beta test results).