



Bar Exam Checklist

California Bar Admission

Practicing lawyers in California must be licensed by the State Bar. The State Bar's admission requirements are set by the California Business and Professions Code. The process is lengthy and intricate. You should start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date. On average, more than 13,000 law students and legal professionals take the California Bar Exam each year.

Register as a law student with the state bar | for important info

Most applicants attending California Law Schools registered when they first began the study of law. You only need to register once. This will allow you to receive important email notifications from the State Bar of California's Office of Admissions regarding the status of your application and/or admission status at the email address you provide on your application.

If you are applying for an examination, please be advised that you must have an approved registration on file within 10 days of submitting your examination application.

Note that the registration application is not an application to take the California Bar Exam.

FEE: \$119

calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Requirements

Take the MPRE | Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

It's a good idea to take the MPRE any time during 2L year or as early in your 3L year as possible. A scaled score of 86 (approximately 33 questions correct) on the MPRE is required for admission to the California bar.

All applicants for admission to practice law in California must receive a passing score at least three months prior to the release of results from the California Bar Exam. It is necessary for applicants to request that their scores be reported or transferred to California.

The MPRE is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice exam developed by the NCBE and administered in the spring, summer and fall. When registering for the MPRE, students can select one of two dates offered at a time (see chart below) on a first come, first served basis.

Registration for all 2021 MPRE dates opens Monday, December 14, 2020.

Upcoming test date	Registration deadline (fee: \$135)	Scan for more information
March 29 or 30, 2021	January 28, 2021	
August 11 or 12, 2021	June 10, 2021	
November 4 or 5, 2021	September 17, 2021	

You can register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course here: barbri.com/mpre



Secure your bar review | made just for you

Don't wait to take advantage of the best price being offered on BARBRI Bar Review. The earlier you commit during law school, the greater the discount. Early commitment will secure the best possible course price, a priority study location and instant access to 2/3L Mastery outlines, lectures and practice questions, as well as Early Start Bar Review materials. Lock in your BARBRI Bar Review savings at: barbri.com/bar-review-course

If you are billing a firm, congratulations. BARBRI has trusted direct billing relationships with over 450 law firms. Just select the firm you'd like us to invoice during enrollment and we'll work directly with your firm for billing.

If you'll be paying for your bar review course (not billing an employer), you can finance the cost or set up a monthly payment plan to better meet your budget.

If you're going into Public Interest, you may qualify for a BARBRI Bar Review Public Interest Scholarship. Plus you're welcome to apply before putting any money down for your BARBRI bar prep course. Submit your application at: barbri.com/publicinterest.

For more information about these options, contact your BARBRI Director of Legal Education or email service@barbri.com.

Also, due to the level of uncertainty presented by COVID-19, the February and July 2021 California bar exams were (will be) administered remotely. Rest assured that BARBRI has you covered. Throughout your BARBRI Bar Review course, you will receive online bar exam test taking tips and strategies. You will also have ample opportunities to practice all components of your bar exam in an online format.

Create an NCBE account | before bar exam application

My NCBE Number

All law students are required to create an NCBE Account that comes with a unique NCBE Number for identification purposes. You will need this number to be able to take the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam), which is developed by the NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners). The MBE is administered on Day 2 of the California Bar Exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE.

Here's where to register with the NCBE: ncbex.org/exams/mbe/registration

Moral character application | file early, expect a thorough check

To initiate this intensive background check, you must file an Application for Determination of Moral Character that can be completed at any time after registering as a law student or attorney applicant.

It can take six months or longer to have processed by the State Bar. You'll want to file at least eight to ten months prior to the date you wish to be admitted to practice law in California.

The State Bar staff will carefully review your history. The moral character application is a compilation of many details of your life. You will be asked to disclose details about your academic, work and financial history, as well as any criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is a significant factor. You will also need to include recommendations and references, final law school transcripts and fingerprints.

FEE: \$551

Additional moral character application details: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Moral-Character

Go here for more information on the "good moral character" requirement: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Moral-Character/Moral-Character-Statement

Pay attention to the filing fees | deadlines vary

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and State Bar fee schedules – both how you plan to pay and if you can meet the timely deadlines, which will help you save money. In California, there are different fees for general applicants and attorney applicants, using a laptop, your moral character application and admission certificates to consider.

As of June, 2021, the application fee for the California Bar Exam is \$677.

For additional information, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/

Register your laptop | no deadline extensions

You can use a laptop for the California Bar Exam's essay and Performance Test questions (state specific). Be sure to certify your laptop with Examsoft before the first day of the bar exam and pay the computer fee. Otherwise, you will have to handwrite your essays. Once you apply online, you'll select a laptop test center, ensure your laptop is configured with Internet access and confirm your machine meets the minimum operating requirements.

FEE: \$153

Full laptop certification details: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/California-Bar-Examination/Using-Laptops

Attorney oath | after bar exam

Officially, the State Bar releases results in mid-May for the February bar exam and in mid-November for the July bar exam.

After passing the California Bar Exam, there is a swearing-in ceremony where multiple attorneys take the attorney oath at the same time. Taking the oath is not just a ritual. It is required for admission to practice law in California. However, if you currently live outside of California, it is not necessary for you to return to take the attorney's oath.

For details, go to: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/California-Bar-Examination/Attorney-Oath

All information derived from The State Bar of California website at: calbar.ca.gov

If you have any questions, please contact your BARBRI Director of Legal Education at barbri.com/law-school-contact/

California State Bar

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