

Bar Exam Checklist

New York Bar Admission

The bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate. There are many steps involved and, especially for New York, additional special state-specific, professional skills and pro bono requirements. You should start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date.

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 85 on the MPRE is required for admission to the New York bar. Scores are scaled and range from 50 to 150. A raw score of approximately 32 correct out of 50 usually converts to a scaled score of 85.

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 is open		
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

The online, on demand BARBRI MPRE lecture allows students to watch specific lecture segments that correspond with a particular topic module. The course is accompanied by an outline book (hard copy and/or digital), lecture handout, multiple practice exams, and BARBRI's exclusive multiple-choice questions.

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. You will also gain immediate access to our 2L/3L Mastery outlines and lectures and access to our Early Start Bar Review and exclusive LawMaster Study Keys app. Lock in your BARBRI Bar Review savings at: barbri.com/pricing

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/public-interest

Also, due to the level of uncertainty presented by COVID-19, the February and July 2021 New York bar exam 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 NCBE, bar admission accounts | before application

All law students are required to create a 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 New York Bar Exam.

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

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

NYLC and NYLE | state specific content knowledge

As an applicant for admission in New York, you must complete an online course in New York-specific law, the New York Law Course (NYLC), and pass an online examination, the New York Law Exam (NYLE).

You cannot commence the NYLC or the NYLE more than one year before the date when you will first sit for the UBE. You also have up to 3 years after sitting for the bar exam to complete both. However, you cannot be admitted without completion.

The NYLC and NYLE focus on important principles of New York law that are either different from the general principles and prevailing views of the law tested on the MBE and the MEE or are unique to New York and important for the new practitioner to know.

The free online, on-demand NYLC covers 15 topics during 17 hours of lectures that include embedded questions, which must be answered correctly before continuing each video. A supporting 140-plus page outline can be downloaded (PDF) in preparation for the exam. The NYLC must be completed a minimum of 30 days prior to taking the NYLE (but no sooner than one year prior to sitting for the UBE) or up to three years after sitting for the UBE initially. Otherwise, you will be required to repeat the NYLC.

The 2-hour online NYLE covers important state rules within a 50-item, open-book, multiple-choice test format. The passing score is 60% (30 out of 50 questions correct) – otherwise, you will need to retake both the NYLC and NYLE.

The NYLE is administered four times per year, usually in March, June, September and December. The NYLC is a prerequisite to the NYLE.

Upcoming dates of NYLE	Upcoming registration deadlines
March 11, 2021 12:00PM ET	February 10, 2021 11:59PM ET
June 10, 2021 12:00PM ET	May 11, 2021 11:59PM ET
September 23, 2021 12:00PM ET	August 24, 2021 11:59PM ET
December 16, 2021 12:00PM ET	November 16, 2021 11:59PM ET

There is a \$27 fee for purchasing, downloading and registering the exam software that is required for the NYLE. All applicants will be required to perform and submit a mock exam to confirm that the software works on their computer. A few days before the date of the exam, applicants will be required to login to their account and download the exam file to their computer that will be used on exam day.

Free NYLC and NYLE review materials are provided at: nybarexam.org/Content/CourseMaterials.htm

Apply for the bar exam | fall and spring deadlines

Apply online between November 1 and November 30 for the February bar exam, and between April 1 and April 30 for the July bar exam (subject to change with COVID restrictions).

To take the New York Bar Exam, you must have both your NCBE Identification Number and New York Board of Law Examiners Identification Number (NY BOLE ID).

For a NY BOLE ID, be sure to obtain a current copy of your law school transcripts to answer some of the questions on the law school section of the online application.

Review the instructions for applicants regarding “Completion of Questions on Bar Exam Application” at: www.nybarexam.org/forms/JDCertofAttendanceInstructions.pdf

In addition, go over all applicable Bar Exam Applications and Forms (handwriting sample, test accommodations request, L.L.M. Certificate of Attendance, etc.) at: www.nybarexam.org/forms/forms.htm

For more information and exam details, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: www.barbri.com/about-the-bar-exam/

Pro bono requirement | 50 hours

Prior to seeking admission, you'll need to complete at least 50 hours of pro bono work in the United States or abroad, before or after taking the New York Bar Exam. These service hours must be law related, helping to improve access to justice for low-income and disadvantaged individuals or providing relevant government services.

Your pro bono supervisor – not your law school – will complete your Affidavit of Compliance: http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/appforadmission_pro-bonoreq_fillable.pdf

Application fees and others | keep track

It's important to be aware of the schedule of fees. Apply online between November 1 and November 30 for the February bar exam, and between April 1 and April 30 for the July bar exam.

BAR EXAM FEE: \$250 (foreign-trained applicants \$750)

LAPTOP FEE: \$130

NEW YORK LAW COURSE (NYLC) FEE: None

NEW YORK LAW EXAM (NYLE) FEE: \$27 payable to Examssoft

See the New York State Bar Exam Information Guide: nybarexam.org/TheBar/NYBarExamInformationGuide.pdf

Download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest: barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/

Skills and professional values | required to practice

New York has a separate Skills Competency and Professional Values requirement for admission to practice law. It is not a requirement to sit for the New York Bar Exam. To satisfy this skills competency requirement, there are five “pathways” – the first three can be accomplished before taking the bar, during law school, and the other two at any time prior to admission in New York.

1. Certification from the applicant’s law school confirming that **(1)** the law school has developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school’s judgment, are required for its graduates’ basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, and has made this plan publicly available on the law school’s website; and **(2)** the applicant has acquired sufficient competency in those skills and sufficient familiarity with those values.
2. Submitting proof that the applicant completed 15 credits of practice-based experiential coursework designed to foster professional competency training. Up to 6 of these 15 credits can be earned in law school certified non-credit bearing summer employment programs, provided those employment opportunities are certified by the law school and satisfy certain other criteria.
3. Successful completion of the Pro Bono Scholars Program, pursuant to section 520.17 of the Court’s Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (see 22 NYCRR 520.17), will be deemed to have satisfied the skills competency and professional values requirement.
4. Completion of a post-graduate, six-month apprenticeship in a law office in the United States, in a commonwealth or territory of the United States, or in a foreign country, under the supervision of an attorney authorized to practice in the jurisdiction where the work is performed. The apprenticeship can be paid or unpaid. The supervising attorney is responsible for certifying that the apprenticeship satisfied certain criteria.
5. Certification that an applicant has **1)** been authorized to practice law in another state, U.S. territory, commonwealth, or country outside the United States, **2)** has practiced in that jurisdiction full-time for one year, or part-time for two years, and **3)** will meet the skills competency and professional values requirement.

The skills competency and professional values requirement is an admission requirement, not a requirement to sit for the bar exam in New York. For additional details, please review: nycourts.gov/ctapps/news/skills.pdf

2022 bar exam | February 22–23, July 26–27

New York uses the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) and requires a passing score of 266 out of a total of 400 points.

UBE scores are based on:

- 20% – 2 Multistate Performance Tests (MPT) on Day 1 (morning session)
- 30% – 6 Multistate Essay Exams (MEE) on Day 1 (afternoon session)
- 50% – 200 Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on Day 2 (morning and afternoon sessions)

Subjects Tested: Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates (Decedents’ Estates; Trusts and Future Interests), and Uniform Commercial Code (Secured Transactions)

Locations if in-person: Applicants will be assigned to a test center in one of the four judicial departments located in New York State. **Test center assignments will be based on availability and a first come, first serve basis, however first-time applicants who graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from a New York State law school will be given the first opportunity to select the city in which they want to sit (not the actual testing site); all others (approximately 24–48 hours later), including LLM’s and out of state applicants, will then have the opportunity to select a city from what remains.** This is coordinated by email sometime after the application period closes (i.e., typically in late December for those taking the Winter exam, and early June for those taking the Summer exam) requiring registrants to select and confirm their seat location. Only locations with available seats will be listed in the email and since there will be no waiting lists for any location, you must select one from the choices made available to you. Prior Winter and Summer exam locations have included the following (subject to change by the NY Board of Law Examiners):

New York City:

Armory Track & Field Center
216 Fort Washington Avenue, NY, NY 10032

Jacob Javits Center
655 West 34 Street, NY, NY 10001

Albany:

Empire State Plaza Convention Hall
Concourse Level, Albany, NY 12242

Albany Capital Center
55 Eagle St., Albany, NY 12207

Other:

Pace Law School – New York Judicial Institute
78 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603

Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center
153 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

Saratoga Springs City Center
522 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Application for admission | practice as an attorney

In New York, the application for admission forms are uniform among the state's four Appellate Division departments: nybarexam.org/Admission/AdmissionMultiDeptPacket.htm

Check for everything you need in advance. Even if you're waiting on bar exam results, there may be information you can collect during this timeframe to help expedite your application filing. In the Second, Third and Fourth Judicial Departments of New York, you can file your application papers any time after you've taken the bar exam. In the First Judicial Department, you can only file once you've been notified that you've passed.

Only fully completed applications will be accepted for filing. The following official forms, available on each Appellate Division's department website, are required to complete an application:

- an application for admission questionnaire
- good moral character affidavits
- employment affidavits
- law school certificates
- pro bono affidavit
- any other papers you wish to submit
- an original form certificate from your law school (this form is mailed by you to the law school and then mailed directly by the law school to the appropriate Appellate Division)

The application and any further materials required by the Appellate Division and its Committees on Character and Fitness must be filed by you within three years from the date of the letter sent by the New York State Board of Law Examiners notifying you that you have passed the bar examination.

Register your laptop | no deadline extensions

You are allowed to use a laptop for the New York Bar Exam essay questions (MPT and MEE). When you apply for the bar exam, be sure to indicate that you will participate in the laptop program. A follow-up email from ExamSoft Worldwide (barsupport@examsoft.com) will provide instructions for purchasing the software and the deadline for registering your laptop. There are no extensions. If you miss the deadline, you will have to handwrite your essays. This is all subject to change if you sit for an online exam.

Post bar exam | results, attorney registration

Results: NY BOLE typically releases winter bar exam passing results in late April and summer results in late October.

BARBRI Bar Review Materials: When applicable, return your books within 30 days of the bar exam to receive your book deposit refund.

NY Attorney Registration (which includes Character & Fitness): The NY Office of Court Administration (OCA) requires registration of all attorneys (resident or non-resident) for a fee of \$375. Info at nycourts.gov/attorneys/registration/index.shtml

Seeking admission in another jurisdiction with your passing bar exam score: For UBE jurisdictions, consult ncbex.org/ncbe-exam-score-services/ube-score-services/

To transfer a MBE score earned in NY to a non-UBE jurisdiction, consult help.ncbex.org/score-services#mbe-2674

Note: Each state sets its own admission criteria, so a passing score does not automatically guarantee admission.



New York State Bar

All information derived from the NY BOLE website at
nybarexam.org

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

Please know that all information is subject to change by the NYBOLE at any time.
Please reference nybarexam.org/ for confirmation of all requirements and details