

California

Bar Admission Checklist

The California bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate, but we're here to guide you. There are many steps involved and as the date of the exam nears, filing fees increase. Start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date. Here's what you need to know and do for California Bar admission:

☐ 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. Application fee is: **\$119**

For more detail around this register, go to: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Requirements

☐ 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 MPRE (see below) and the MBE, which are developed by the NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners). The MBE is administered on day two of the California Bar Exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE. Register with the NCBE at: <https://auth.ncbex.org/account/create>

☐ 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 on the MPRE. 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.

MPRE dates	Registration deadline (fee: \$160)	Scan for more information
November 2 or 3, 2023	September 12, 2023	
March 26 or 27, 2024	January 25, 2024	
August 13 or 14, 2024	June 12, 2024	
November 7 or 8, 2024	September 18, 2024	

The online, on-demand BARBRI MPRE Review course allows you 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. You can register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course here: barbri.com/mpre

Secure your bar prep course | start early for full advantages

Ready for bar prep? We're here for you. We've spent over 50 years optimizing and investing in legal education and bar review. That's a proven track record. And that's why every minute you spend with BARBRI Bar Review statistically increases your chances of passing.



Most passes

Nearly 90% of our students who do the average amount of prep pass the bar exam. Don't just take our word for it, though. Ask the 1.3 million lawyers, judges and legal professionals who have passed using BARBRI.



Most personalized

BARBRI is personalized to you from the beginning. ISAAC is the proprietary engine that creates a smart bar prep Personal Study Plan for you from day one. It updates based on time left until your exam, customizations you make, and the most statistically significant topics for passing the bar.



Most points

Master bar exam content with expert lectures from the best law professors in the country and a bank of 5K+ practice multiple-choice questions. The result? Studies show BARBRI students score more points compared to students who don't study with BARBRI.



Most students

The largest pool of students prepare for the bar with BARBRI. In fact, more students prepare with BARBRI every year than all other bar prep courses – combined. For an exam with a curved score, that means you can trust us to analyze your chances of passing before you even sit for the exam.

Enroll early and gain immediate access to 2L/3L Mastery and early access to Early Start Bar Review. **Enroll at:** barbri.com/pricing

If you are billing a firm, congratulations. BARBRI has trusted direct billing relationships with over 500 law firms. **Learn more about billing a law firm at:** barbri.com/firm-pay.

If you're going into Public Interest, you may qualify for a BARBRI Bar Review Public Interest Scholarship. **Apply in less than 5 minutes at:** barbri.com/public-interest

Moral character application | start early

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.

The Moral Character application fee is: **\$551 (\$725*)**

Find additional moral character application details and requirements at: calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Moral-Character/Moral-Character-Statement

*The State Bar is planning an increase to bar exam fees, including the Moral Character application fee, beginning with the February 2024 exam. The increased fee above has been proposed and is expected to be approved in September 2023, but has not been finalized as of the printing of this checklist. For more information, visit <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/>

□ Apply for the bar exam | meet filing fee deadlines

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and State Bar fee schedules - both in how you plan to pay and if you can meet the timely deadlines, which will help you save money.

In California, there are various fees and timelines to consider. They typically are:

<u>February (Winter) exam:</u>	<u>July (Summer) exam:</u>	Bar exam application fee: \$677 (\$850*)
Timely deadline: November 1	Timely deadline: April 1	Attorney exam application fee: \$983 (\$1,500*)
Final deadline: January 15	Final deadline: June 1	First late filing fee: + \$50
		Final late filing fee: + \$250

**In July 2023, the State Bar of California announced that it is planning an increase to bar exam fees beginning with the February 2024 exam. The increased fees above have been proposed and are expected to be approved in September 2023, but have not been finalized as of the printing of this checklist. For more information, visit <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/>*

Find more detail on the California Bar Exam registration at: calbar.ca.gov/admissions



For more information and exam details, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: www.barbri.com/bar-exam-digest or by scanning the code.

□ 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 computer meets the minimum operating requirements.

The laptop registration and software fee is: **\$153**

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

□ Take the bar exam | February 27-28, 2024 / July 30-31, 2024

The California Bar Exam is a two-day exam that requires a **passing score of 1390** out of 2000.

The scores are based on:

- **50%** – Three California essay questions (morning session) and two essays plus a California Performance Test (afternoon session) on day one
- **50%** – 200-question, multiple-choice Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on day two (morning and afternoon sessions)

Essay subjects:

Business Associations (Agency and Partnership, Corporations, and LLC), CA Civil Procedure, CA Community Property, CA Evidence, CA Professional Responsibility, Remedies, Trusts, CA Wills and Succession, plus all MBE subjects

Performance Test:

"Closed universe" practical questions using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes, and other reference material supplied by examiners

MBE subjects tested:

Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts

Helpful tip: Remember to bring an extension cord in case your laptop charger does not reach the provided outlet.

□ 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

California State Bar

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