

## Bar Exam Checklist

# Illinois Bar Admission


The bar admissions process is lengthy. There are several steps involved and as the date of the bar exam nears, filing fees increase incrementally. Start planning for the admission process as early as possible in your 3L year, if not before.

### 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 80 on the MPRE is required for admission to the Illinois bar. The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar (IBAB) must receive satisfactory proof that you've achieved a passing MPRE score before you can be recommended for admission to the bar.

The MPRE is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice exam developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) and administered in the spring, summer, and fall. Students must create an NCBE account to register for the MPRE, which can be done at [auth.ncbex.org/account/create](http://auth.ncbex.org/account/create). More information about the MPRE registration process can be found at [ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registration/](http://ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registration/). 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 2021 MPRE dates

Upcoming test date	Registration deadline (fee: \$135)	Scan for more information
November 4 or 5, 2021	September 17, 2021	

You can register for the free **BARBRI MPRE Review Course** here: [barbri.com/mpre-review/](http://barbri.com/mpre-review/). 2022 MPRE dates will be released in late 2021.

### 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. Lock in your BARBRI Bar Review savings at: [barbri.com/bar-review-course](http://barbri.com/bar-review-course)

If you'll be paying out of pocket, you can finance the cost or set up a monthly payment plan to better meet your budget.

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 have public interest experience or are going into public interest after graduation, you may qualify for a BARBRI Bar Review Public Interest Scholarship. You can apply for the scholarship before enrolling or putting any money down for your bar review course, or you can enroll and apply afterward. Submit your application at: [barbri.com/bar-review-course/public-interest-scholarship](http://barbri.com/bar-review-course/public-interest-scholarship)

For more information about these options, contact your BARBRI Director of Legal Education or email [service@barbri.com](mailto:service@barbri.com)



## Create NCBE, bar admission accounts | before 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. The MBE is administered on Day 2 of the bar exam.

You can create your NCBE Account at: [auth.ncbex.org/account/create](http://auth.ncbex.org/account/create)

You will then need to create a personal Illinois Bar Admission Registration account on this website: [ilbaradmissions.org/displayregister.action](http://ilbaradmissions.org/displayregister.action)

## Apply for the bar exam

Illinois administers the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). The application process continues to be managed by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar. For more information regarding Illinois's administration of the UBE, please visit [www.ilbaradmissions.org/faq.action#400](http://www.ilbaradmissions.org/faq.action#400)

To take the Illinois Bar Exam, you must submit the correct forms, specific to each bar exam. Completing the relevant application forms, which include the Character and Fitness Questionnaire discussed below, is a time-consuming process. Check to make sure you are working with the right form before entering any data. Current information and all applications can be found at [ilbaradmissions.org/information-and-applications](http://ilbaradmissions.org/information-and-applications).

For additional information and exam details, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: [barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/](http://barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/)

## Complete Character and Fitness Questionnaire

The application for the Illinois Bar Exam includes a Character and Fitness Questionnaire. You will be asked to disclose details about your personal, academic, work and financial histories. Candor is key. You will also need to include information such as references, final law school transcripts, driving record, criminal record and civil proceedings.

You can complete the questionnaire as part of your application at [ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1](http://ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1)

## Sign Authorization and Release (A&R) form

With your signed A&R, character and fitness analysts have the authority to perform a full background check on you. You can complete the A&R as part of your application at [ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1](http://ilbaradmissions.org/browseapplication.action?id=1)

## Avoid fee increases | meet the filing deadlines

### February Bar Exam Deadlines and Fees

(for students who HAVE NOT previously registered for the IL Bar Exam)

**Through September 15:** \$950

**September 16 - November 1:** \$1,150

**November 2 - December 15:** \$1,450

### July Bar Exam Deadlines and Fees

(for students who HAVE NOT previously registered for the IL Bar Exam)

**Through February 15:** \$950

**February 16 - April 1:** \$1,150

**April 2 - May 15:** \$1,450

*Subject to change, if mandated by the Illinois Supreme Court.*

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and IBAB fee schedules – both how you plan to pay and if you can meet the earlier deadlines, which will help you save money. In Illinois, the bar exam application filing fee goes up sharply depending on when you apply.

There are also fees to consider for an on-motion application, UBE transfer fee and laptop registration.

For specific fee information and deadlines, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: [barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/](http://barbri.com/bar-exam-digest/)



## Register your laptop | no deadline extensions

Registration period/fee .....

You can request to use a laptop for the Illinois Bar Exam's written components. Look for an IBAB email regarding how to purchase the Exam360 software, registration steps and deadline. There are no extensions. If you miss the deadline, you will have to handwrite your essays.

Full details pertaining to the IBAB Laptop Program: [ilbaradmissions.org/notice.action](http://ilbaradmissions.org/notice.action)

## Attorney registration | after swearing-in

Web Access ID .....

Shortly after your swearing-in ceremony, you'll receive a registration letter from the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois (ARDC). Keep this handy.

Go to [iadc.org](http://iadc.org) and click on Lawyer Registration. Use your web access ID in your letter from the ARDC to register by the deadline.

For further questions, contact the ARDC at: [registration@iadc.org](mailto:registration@iadc.org)

## Continuing legal education | for new lawyers

MCLE deadline .....

Newly-admitted attorneys in Illinois have special requirements for their first year of admittance. The choices include taking a Basic Skills course, participating in an approved mentoring program or selecting other MCLE courses of interest.

The deadline to complete these MCLE hours is one year from the last day of the month you were admitted to the Illinois bar.

Find your exact MCLE deadline and compliance options here: [isba.org/newlawyers/mclerequirements](http://isba.org/newlawyers/mclerequirements)

## Illinois State Bar Association | become a member

Illinois attorneys are automatically enrolled for a two-year complimentary membership when sworn into the Illinois Bar. Activate your membership registration by providing your current information after being sworn in at: [isba.org/membership/newadmittees/form](http://isba.org/membership/newadmittees/form)

Become involved in the Young Lawyers Division and join two complimentary member sections to become part of a statewide community of lawyers who practice in your substantive area. Learn more at: [isba.org/newlawyers/membership](http://isba.org/newlawyers/membership)

## Illinois State Bar

All information derived from the IBAB website at  
[ilbaradmissions.org/home](http://ilbaradmissions.org/home)

If you have any questions, please contact your BARBRI Director of Legal Education at  
[barbri.com//law-school-contact/](http://barbri.com//law-school-contact/)