



# Bar Exam Checklist Pennsylvania Bar Admission


The bar admissions process is lengthy. You should start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date. There are several steps involved and as the date of the bar exam nears, filing fees increase incrementally.

## Take the MPRE | Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

Exam date: ..... Registration deadline .....

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 75 on the MPRE is required for admission to the Pennsylvania bar. Applicants must provide verification of their MPRE score for admission to the bar of Pennsylvania.

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](http://barbri.com/mpre)

## Secure your bar review | made just for you

Don't wait to take advantage of the best price being offered for your BARBRI Bar Review course. The earlier you sign-up 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 are billing a firm or employer, 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 directly (not billing), 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. You're welcome to apply before putting any money down for your BARBRI bar prep course. 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)

**Also, due to the level of uncertainty presented by COVID-19, the July 2021 Pennsylvania 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

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 Pennsylvania bar exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE. Here's where to register with the NCBE: [ncbex.org/exams/mbex/registration/](http://ncbex.org/exams/mbex/registration/)

You will then need to create an account with the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners (BOLE). Start and submit your application there: [pabarapplication.org/OBA/Login.aspx](http://pabarapplication.org/OBA/Login.aspx)

The Pennsylvania BOLE provides a helpful guide to walk you through the online application, as well as a checklist for the supplemental documentation you will need to submit after you apply for the bar exam.

Sample bar exam checklist: [pabarexam.org/pdf/CheckList\\_Sample.pdf](http://pabarexam.org/pdf/CheckList_Sample.pdf)

## Apply for the bar exam | fall and spring deadlines

**Pennsylvania timely winter deadline:** October 30th | Final winter deadline: December 15th

**Pennsylvania timely summer deadline:** April 16th | Final summer deadline: May 30th

To take the Pennsylvania Bar Exam, you'll complete and submit your application online. Be sure to print and save copies of the sample bar exam checklist and application available. You'll use them as guides in gathering any supplemental documentation, which is needed later for when your character and fitness investigation begins.

For steps on how to complete an online application, go here: [pabarexam.org/online\\_file\\_info/online\\_info.htm](http://pabarexam.org/online_file_info/online_info.htm)

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/)

## Avoid increases | meet the filing fee deadlines

Winter fees	Summer fees
<b>Timely fee:</b> Oct. 30th   \$650 + finger print + laptop fee .....	<b>Timely fee:</b> April 16th   \$650 + finger print + laptop fee .....
<b>First late fee:</b> Nov. 15th   \$800 + finger print + laptop fee .....	<b>First late fee:</b> April 30th   \$800 + finger print + laptop fee .....
<b>Second late fee:</b> Nov. 30th   \$1,100 + finger print + laptop fee .....	<b>Second late fee:</b> May 15th   \$1,100 + finger print + laptop fee .....
<b>Final late fee:</b> Dec. 15th   \$1,500 + finger print + laptop fee .....	<b>Final late fee:</b> May 30th   \$1,500 + finger print + laptop fee .....

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and Pennsylvania BOLE fee schedules – if you can meet the earlier deadlines, which will help you save money. The bar exam application filing fee goes up sharply depending on when you apply.

Make sure to budget for the cost of an MBE score transfer and Computer Based Testing (CBT), which allows you to use a laptop to answer essay questions.

For specific fee information and deadlines, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: [barbri.com/about-the-bar-exam/](http://barbri.com/about-the-bar-exam/) or visit the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners website at: [pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm](http://pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm)

## Provide character and fitness details

As part of the bar exam online application process, you'll provide background information that helps the Pennsylvania BOLE conduct a character and fitness investigation.

Pennsylvania requires five (5) years of information on where you've worked and where you've lived, and will ask for it in reverse chronological order. You will be asked to disclose details about your personal, academic, work and financial histories, as well as criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key. You will also need to include information such as income tax returns, military service, driving records and citizenship. And as part of the character and fitness review, all applicants must submit fingerprints for the purpose of the Board verifying the identity of the applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal history.

After you've passed the bar exam, the board will make a determination on your character and fitness. The review process can take a few weeks up to more than a year depending on the nature of the investigation.

Here's a list of character and fitness questions and instructions to help prepare for the online process:

[www.pabarexam.org/c\\_and\\_f/oba/default.htm](http://www.pabarexam.org/c_and_f/oba/default.htm)

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

Bar exam filing deadline .....

A notarized A&R provides character and fitness analysts the authority to perform a full background check on you. If you are directed by your character and fitness investigator to submit this document, you can do so after completing your online application. You'll print the form and sign it in the presence of a notary.

Here's a sample A&R form with instructions: [pabarexam.org/online\\_file\\_info/arinfo.htm](http://pabarexam.org/online_file_info/arinfo.htm)

## Sign up for CBT | use your laptop for essays

The essay questions and Performance Test on the Pennsylvania Bar Exam are delivered in booklet format (not electronic); however, you have the option to use a laptop to type out your answers for these written components. This method of test taking is known as Computer Based Testing (CBT).

Indicate on your bar exam application that you wish to use CBT. The fee will be added to your total application cost.

Look for a Pennsylvania BOLE email regarding how to download and register the Exemplify (Exam360) software. Follow these instructions to complete the process. Students should anticipate having to make time to complete these mock exams (the first is usually due about a month before the exam, the second is usually due about a week before the exam). For more details, please visit [pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm](http://pabarexam.org/bemenuitems.htm)

## Attorney registration and Bridge The Gap

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania mandates that every attorney admitted to practice in Pennsylvania file an annual registration statement and pay an annual fee: [ujportal.pacourts.us/Register.aspx](http://ujportal.pacourts.us/Register.aspx)

As a newly admitted lawyer, you will need to complete an approved Bridge the Gap program as part of your initial Continuing Legal Education (CLE) requirement. Bridge the Gap courses, offering four hours of ethics credits, can be found here: [pacle.org/courses/search?operation=30](http://pacle.org/courses/search?operation=30)



## Pennsylvania State Bar

All information derived from the Pennsylvania BOLE website at  
[pabarexam.org](http://pabarexam.org)

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