



South Dakota has announced that it intends to administer the NextGen bar exam in July 2027. Visit <a href="https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen">https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen</a> (/exams/nextgen) to learn more about the new exam.

South Dakota requires the following NCBE exams: MBE, MEE, MPT, and MPRE. Visit the NCBE Study Aids Store (https://store.ncbex.org/) to purchase the Bar Exam Everything Value Pack (https://store.ncbex.org/the-everything-value-pack/) which includes MBE, MEE, and MPT study aids; and MPRE study aids (https://store.ncbex.org/mpre/) to help prepare for South Dakota exams.

## **Bar Admission Agency**

# South Dakota Board of Bar Examiners

500 E. Capitol Ave. Pierre, SD 57501 Phone: (605) 773-4898 Fax: (605) 773-8479

Visit Website (https://ujs.sd.gov/)

### **Character & Fitness Investigations**

NCBE conducts investigations for some application types.

### **MPRE Requirements**

MPRE Required Yes

MPRE Minimum Passing Score 85

MPRE Score Time Parameters

### Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions-MPRE Requirements, MBE Score Transfers, and Attorneys' Exams

Minimum passing MPRE score 85

Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must be earned or achieved? Yes

Are MBE scores accepted for transfer from other jurisdictions? Yes

Is an Attorneys' Exam offered?  $\,$  No  $\,$ 

To qualify for the Attorneys' Exam, must an applicant be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school? —

Attorneys' Exam fee -

## Bar Exam Eligibility, Deadlines, and Fees

ABA-Approved Law School J.D. Required Yes

Foreign Law Graduate Eligibility Yes

# Foreign Legal Education

Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission by examination? Yes

If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible for admission by examination, what additional requirements pertain?

Admission in another US jurisdiction

If a foreign law school graduate obtains an LLM or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar exam on this basis alone?

No

Bar Exam Application Filing Deadlines

# Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Bar Examination Application Deadlines and Fees

July 2025: First filing deadline May 1

July 2025: Late filing deadline -

February 2026: First filing deadline Nov. 1

February 2026: Late filing deadline —

Dec 3, 2025

Bar exam fee for first-time takers (non-attorneys) \$450

Bar exam fee for attorneys \$450
Bar exam fee for repeaters \$450
Fee for laptops, if permitted \$100

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# **Score Portability**

Accepts Legacy UBE Score No
Accepts NextGen UBE Score Yes
Minimum NextGen UBE Score TBA
Date First Acceptance NextGen UBE Score TBA
Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement No
Accepts Transferred MBE Scores Yes

## Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions-MPRE Requirements, MBE Score Transfers, and Attorneys' Exams

Minimum passing MPRE score 85

Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must be earned or achieved? Yes

Are MBE scores accepted for transfer from other jurisdictions? Yes

Is an Attorneys' Exam offered? No

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Attorneys' Exam fee -

# **Bar Exam**

Legacy UBE No
NextGen UBE Yes

Date First Administration July 2027

Minimum Passing Score TBA

NextGen UBE Jurisdiction-Specific Requirement TBA

Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam Yes

# Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Admission by Examination

Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) Yes

Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) Yes

Multistate Performance Test (MPT) Yes

Jurisdiction-drafted exam (essay, multiple-choice, or performance test) Yes

How many times may an applicant take the exam without special permission?  $\, {\bf 3} \,$ 

Minimum Passing Score —

Dec 3, 2025

### Non-Uniform Bar Examination Jurisdictions—Grading and Scoring

Average grading/reporting period (February/July exams) both 6-8 weeks

Are both the MBE and a written component administered? Yes

Is the written component scaled to the MBE? No (see suppl. remarks)

Are the MBE and written component scores combined? No

% MBE weight (of combined score) -

% MEE and/or local essay weight (of combined score) —

% MPT and/or local PT weight (of combined score) —

% Local component weight (of combined score) -

Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on reported score scale —

Minimum passing standard for total bar exam score based on 200-point scale —

MPRE minimum passing standard (on scale of 50 to 150) 85

Visit the NCBE Study Aids Store (https://store.ncbex.org/) for official test prep materials

## **Admission on Motion**

Rules Provide for Admission on Motion Yes

#### Admission on Motion—Years of Practice and Definition of Practice

Do the rules provide for admission on motion? Yes

What is the number of years of practice required for admission on motion? 3 of past 5

What does the definition of practice for purposes of admission on motion include?

Gov't agency, military, in-house corporate, judicial court of record, sole practitioner, member of law firm

Are there any time parameters within which an MPRE score must have been earned or achieved? Yes

Admission on motion fee \$650 (plus other fees)

Legal Education and Reciprocity Requirements

## Admission on Motion—Legal Education and Reciprocity Requirements

Must an applicant for admission on motion be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school? Yes

Is admission on motion based on reciprocity (that is, is it limited to candidates from some or all jurisdictions offering admission on motion)? Yes

Is an attorney initially admitted by diploma privilege eligible for admission on motion? Yes

Number of Years of Practice Required 3 of past 5

# Disclaimer

Since jurisdiction rules and policies change, NCBE strongly advises consulting the jurisdiction's bar admission agency directly for the most current information.

Dec 3, 2025