

NextGen Uniform Bar Exam Fact Sheet

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About the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam

- Set to debut in July 2026, the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam (NextGen UBE) will test a broad range of foundational lawyering skills, utilizing a focused set of clearly identified fundamental legal concepts and principles needed in today's practice of law.
 - Fundamental concepts and principles: civil procedure, contract law, evidence, torts, business associations, constitutional law, criminal law, real property. Family law will be added to this list starting with the July 2028 bar exam.
 - Foundational lawyering skills: legal research, legal writing, issue spotting and analysis, investigation and evaluation, client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, client relationship and management.

Visit www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/content-scope for detailed outlines of the legal doctrine and skills that will be tested on the NextGen exam and www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/sample-questions for sample questions.

- Other areas of legal knowledge will also appear on the NextGen exam to provide the context for testing one or more foundational lawyering skills, but examinees are not expected or required to develop a base of knowledge in those areas. For those questions, examinees will be provided with the necessary legal resources (e.g., statutes, regulations, and case law) to demonstrate the skills being tested. From July 2026 through February 2028, family law and trusts and estates will appear in these skills-focused questions on every exam.
- The skills and concepts to be tested were developed through a multi-year, nationwide legal practice analysis, focused on the most important knowledge and skills for newly licensed lawyers (defined as lawyers within their first three years in practice). The practice analysis surveyed over 14,000 attorneys, focusing on both seasoned attorneys supervising newly licensed attorneys and newly licensed attorneys themselves.
- In considering the breadth of topics to be covered within each concept and skill area, a 21-member content scope committee comprised of law professors and deans, practicing attorneys, and judges primarily considered the following three factors:
 - Frequency: How often is a newly licensed lawyer likely to encounter the topic in general entry-level practice (loosely defined as solo practice or working at a full-service law firm)?
 - Universality: How likely is a newly licensed lawyer to encounter the topic in more specialized types of entry-level practice?
 - Risk: How likely is it that there will be serious consequences if a newly licensed lawyer does not have any knowledge of the topic when it arises?

- In addition to the factors listed above, for the subject of constitutional law the content scope committee also considered lawyers' roles as custodians of the US Constitution.
- The NextGen exam will be administered over one and a half days, with two, three-hour sessions on day one and one, three-hour session on day two. Jurisdictions that administer their own local law components may elect to extend day two for that purpose.
- The NextGen exam is currently under development utilizing a rigorous process that includes multiple phases of research testing and statistical analysis. The development process is being conducted in accordance with the same best practices in licensure exam development utilized by a broad range of exams, including those for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, accounting, and other licensed professions. By the time the new exam launches in 2026, over 10,000 newly licensed attorneys and law students will have participated in research for the NextGen UBE.
- Questions for the NextGen exam are written by diverse teams of law professors and deans, practicing attorneys, and judges drawn from jurisdictions throughout the US.
- Like the current bar exam, the NextGen exam will be administered, and the written portions graded, by the individual US jurisdictions. NCBE will provide the technology platform for delivering the exam and conducting grading, taking advantage of the latest advances in testing best practices and technology.
- The exam will be taken on examinees' own laptops at in-person, proctored testing locations. A secure, online assessment platform will be used to present the exam and to collect examinees' responses. The platform will offer a range of assistive technologies and custom-created formats for examinees who require testing accommodations.
- The NextGen exam will be equated to ensure comparability across administrations and between jurisdictions and can be paired with additional bar exam components developed independently by the administering jurisdictions. The NextGen exam may be used by individual jurisdictions as the basis for scaling their own bar exam components.
- The NextGen UBE will take the place of the current Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) for purposes of inter-jurisdictional score portability.
- For a list of jurisdictions that have announced their intention to administer and more information on the NextGen exam, visit www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen.

About the Current Bar Exam

- All 56 US jurisdictions (all US states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands) administer a bar exam as part of their requirements for licensure to practice law. 54 of those jurisdictions use one or more of the bar exam components developed by NCBE. For a list of each jurisdiction and which components it administers, visit www.ncbex.org/jurisdictions.
- The bar exam components developed by NCBE are the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), which consists of six 30-minute essay questions; the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), which consists of two 90-minute items; and the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), a six-hour, 200-question multiple-choice exam.
- Some jurisdictions include jurisdiction-specific components in their bar exams (e.g., locally authored essay questions or performance tests).

- The MEE, MPT, and MBE are developed by NCBE in collaboration with teams of law professors and deans, practicing attorneys, and judges drawn from jurisdictions throughout the US. Each of these components is subjected to external expert review, bias review, and statistical analysis to ensure that all test takers have a fair opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The content of the NCBE-developed exam components is regularly reviewed for currency and relevance to bar admissions and early practice; the most recent study of bar exam content was conducted in 2018 and 2019 and forms the basis for the content on the NextGen exam.
- Effective with the July 2026 bar exam, the following subjects will no longer be tested on the MEE: Conflict of Laws, Family Law, Trusts and Estates, and Secured Transactions. Family Law and Trusts and Estates will instead be tested on the MPT. This change will align MEE subjects with the subject matter for the NextGen exam.
- The MEE, MPT, and MBE will no longer be available for administration after the February 2028 bar exam.

About the Current Uniform Bar Exam

- The UBE is coordinated by NCBE and comprised of the MEE, the MPT, and the MBE. It is uniformly administered, graded, and scored and results in a portable score that can be transferred between participating UBE jurisdictions.
- The UBE was first administered in 2011. Forty-one jurisdictions currently participate in the UBE program. For a list of all UBE jurisdictions, visit www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/.
- Over 48,500 candidates took the UBE in 2024. Through December 31, 2024, nearly 330,000 UBE scores had been earned and nearly 66,000 UBE scores had been transferred since the start of the UBE program, obviating the need for candidates to re-take the bar exam in one or more additional jurisdictions.
- The NextGen UBE will take the place of the current UBE for purposes of inter-jurisdictional score portability.

About the National Conference of Bar Examiners

- The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1931.
- NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in bar admissions for the benefit and protection of the public, in pursuit of its vision of a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.
- Best known for developing bar exam content used by 54 US jurisdictions, NCBE serves admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates by providing high-quality assessment products, services, and research; character investigations; and informational and educational resources and programs.
- Public contact information: www.ncbex.org, contact@ncbex.org, 608-280-8550



Building a competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession.