

# **How to be Licensed in More Than One State Choosing Your Bar Exam Jurisdiction**

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# Deciding Factors

- Where will you **work**?
  - Ask your firm which bar exam to take
  - With a federal job, you can likely be admitted anywhere, but ask your supervisor what their preference is
- If you are not sure where you will work, then consider where you will **live**
  - If you don't have a job lined up, pay attention to the **job market** in potential jurisdictions
  - Look to where you have the most **connections**
    - Past Residences
    - Previous Employment
    - Location of Friends & Family
    - Your school's alumni network
  - Consider the **UBE**
    - Offers the most flexibility
    - Able to transfer UBE Score
    - Pay attention to additional admission requirements
- Look at the jurisdiction's **reciprocity** agreements with other jurisdictions
- You will take the bar exam within the jurisdiction of the exam, unlike the MPRE (make sure to reserve a hotel)
- NOTE: You are not able to take two bar exams during the same exam administration



# Types of Bar Exam

- The UBE/Uniform Bar Exam
  - Each July and February, the same exam is administered in over 40 jurisdictions
    - For example, DC's and NY's bar exam is the UBE. Someone taking the bar exam in these two jurisdictions in July 2026 will be taking the same exam
  - Some jurisdictions also have a state law component that is separate from the bar exam
- The NextGen UBE
  - Replacing the UBE between 2026-2028
- State Bar Exam/Non-UBE Jurisdictions
  - All jurisdictions except for Louisiana will have the same multiple-choice element of the bar exam (the MBE)
  - But the writing day will vary, and will be state-specific essays or multiple-choice questions

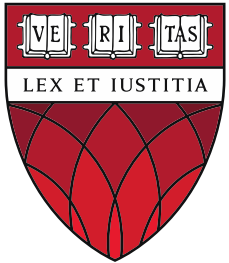


# UBE Jurisdictions

- Alabama (NextGen: July 2028)
- Alaska (NextGen: July 2028)
- Arizona (NextGen: July 2027)
- Arkansas
- Colorado (NextGen: July 2028)
- Connecticut (NextGen: July 2026)
- District of Columbia (NextGen: Feb 2028)
- Idaho (NextGen: July 2026)
- Illinois (NextGen: Feb 2028)
- Indiana (NextGen: July 2028)
- Iowa (NextGen: July 2027)
- Kansas (NextGen: July 2028)
- Kentucky (NextGen: July 2027)
- Maine (NextGen: July 2028)
- Maryland (NextGen: July 2026)
- Massachusetts (NextGen: July 2028)
- Michigan
- Minnesota (NextGen: July 2027)
- Missouri (NextGen: July 2026)
- Montana
- Nebraska (NextGen: July 2027)
- New Hampshire (NextGen: July 2027)
- New Jersey
- New Mexico (NextGen: July 2027)
- New York (NextGen: July 2028)
- North Carolina
- North Dakota (NextGen: July 2027)
- Ohio (NextGen: July 2028)
- Oklahoma (NextGen: July 2027)
- Oregon (NextGen: July 2026)
- Pennsylvania (NextGen: July 2028)
- Rhode Island (NextGen: July 2028)
- South Carolina
- Tennessee (NextGen: July 2027)
- Texas (likely NextGen: July 2028)
- Utah (NextGen: July 2028)
- Vermont (NextGen: July 2027)
- Washington (NextGen: July 2026)
- West Virginia (NextGen: July 2027)
- Wyoming (NextGen: July 2027)
- US Virgin Islands (NextGen: July 2026)



# State-Specific & Future NextGen Jurisdictions



- California
- Delaware (NextGen: February 2028)
- Florida (NextGen: July 2028)
- Georgia (NextGen: July 2028)
- Hawaii (NextGen: July 2028)
- Louisiana
- Mississippi (Next Gen: TBD)
- Nevada
- South Dakota (NextGen: July 2027)
- Virginia (NextGen: July 2028)
- Wisconsin

# NextGen UBE Timeline

## **July 2026:**

Connecticut, Guam, Idaho, Maryland, Missouri, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Palau, Virgin Islands, Washington

## **July 2027:**

Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

## **February 2028:**

Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois

## **July 2028:**

Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia

## **Date TBD:**

Mississippi

## **UBE States Not Yet Announced (Possibly Won't Participate):**

Arkansas, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina

## **Non-UBE States Not Yet Announced (Probably Won't Participate):**

California, Louisiana, Nevada, Wisconsin

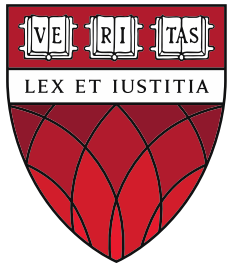


# Transferring your UBE Score

- As long as you have the minimum passing score within the transfer time frame, you can transfer your score to seek admission in an additional UBE jurisdiction without having to take the bar exam again
- You can use your UBE score in multiple jurisdictions at the same time
- You will have to apply to the state bar and meet all its requirements
  - Licensing Fee
  - Character & Fitness Application
  - State Specific Component, if applicable
  - Foreign-educated applicants will likely have additional requirements
- Your UBE Score is not good forever
  - It will “expire” within 2-5 years
  - Determined by the state you are transferring your UBE score into
- **While it has not yet been announced, it is assumed the NextGen UBE will also be transferable**



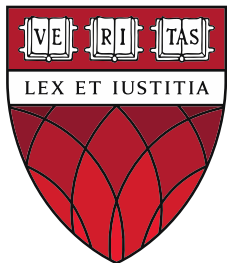
# Minimum UBE Scores



- **260**: Alabama, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah
- **264**: Indiana, Oklahoma
- **266**: Connecticut, DC, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, US Virgin Islands
- **268**: Michigan
- **270**: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- **NextGen UBE Minimum Scores have not been announced**

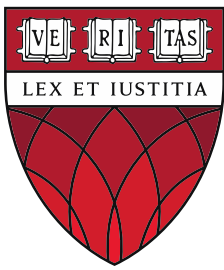


# Expiration Dates for UBE Scores



- 2 Years: North Dakota, Rhode Island
- 2 Years/5 Years if Practice of 2 of last 3 Years: Iowa
- 25 Months: Alabama
- 3 Years: Arkansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virgin Islands
- 3 Years/5 Years if Practice of immediate 2 of 5 Years: Colorado, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wyoming
- 3 Years/5 years if Practice of 3 of last 5 Years: Tennessee
- 30 Months: Pennsylvania
- 37 Months: Idaho
- 4 Years: Illinois
- 40 Months: Washington
- 5 Years: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, DC, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Texas

# State Specific Admission Components



- Alabama (online course)
- Alaska (ethics presentation)
- Arizona (online course)
- Colorado (online course)
- Maryland (online exam)
- Massachusetts (online exam)
- Michigan (online training)
- Missouri (online exam)
- Montana (online seminar)
- New Mexico (online course)
- New York (online course and exam)
- Ohio (online exam)
- South Carolina (online course)
- Tennessee (online course)
- Texas (online course) \*Possible Change with NextGen UBE
- Virgin Islands (online exam)
- Virginia (NextGen UBE, Not Yet Announced)
- Washington (online course and exam)
- Florida (NextGen UBE, Not Yet Announced)
- Georgia (NextGen UBE, Not Yet Announced)

# Admission by Motion

- Some state allows an applicant to waive into their jurisdiction without a bar exam. Many allow it without a reciprocity agreement, and others have it limited or not available at all.
- Reciprocity
  - Any Jurisdiction: Colorado, **DC**, **Illinois**, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, **Massachusetts**, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, **Texas**, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin
  - Limited: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, **New York**, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
  - Very Limited: Hawaii, South Carolina
  - Not Available: **California**, **Florida**, Delaware, Louisiana, Nevada, Rhode Island
    - This may change for Florida, Delaware, and Rhode Island once they administer the NextGen UBE as their Bar Exam
- If a jurisdiction does not have reciprocity with where you are licensed, then you will need to either take the full bar exam again or that jurisdiction's Attorney Exam, if applicable.



# Admission by Motion Timeframe: Any Jurisdiction

- 3 Years: DC
- 3 of past 5 years: Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3 of past 5 years or 10 overall: Maryland
- 4 of past 5 years: North Dakota
- 5 of past 7 years: Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, Tennessee, Texas
- 5 of past 10 years: Ohio
- Varies: Vermont



# Admission by Motion Timeframe: Limited Jurisdictions

- 5 Years: Mississippi
- 3 of past 5 years: Arizona, Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah
- 3 of past 5 years with 5-year minimum: Virginia
- 4 of past 6 years: North Carolina
- 5 of past 6 years: Alabama
- 5 of past 7 years: Alaska, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 5 of past 10 years: Connecticut, Missouri
- Varies: Idaho, New Hampshire



# Jurisdictions with Attorney Exams

- California: CA PT & 5 California Essays (must be licensed in another Jx for at least 4 years)
- Florida: 3 Florida Essays and 100 Florida MCQs
- Georgia: MPT & 4 Georgia Essays
- Mississippi: Allowed to utilize MBE score for 20 months from the previous bar exam.
- South Dakota: Allowed to utilize MBE score of 135 or higher for 24 months from the previous bar exam
- Virginia: 9 Virginia Essays and 10 Virginia MCQs
- Wisconsin: Allowed to utilize MBE score of 135 or higher for 37 months from previous bar exam, but must have taken that bar exam successfully no more than 60 days before JD was conferred
- **HOWEVER, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Virginia may adjust this as they transition to the NextGen UBE as their Bar Exam**
- Jurisdictions without an Attorney Exam or the ability to transfer MBE score
  - Delaware
  - Hawaii
  - Louisiana
  - Nevada



# California as a Second Jurisdiction

- California does not have reciprocity with other jurisdictions in the United States
  - You have to take some sort of bar exam to be licensed in California
- If you are an attorney, have an active license for at least four years in another jurisdiction, and are in good standing, then you are eligible to take the California Attorney Exam
  - This exam is just the writing portion of the California Bar Exam which includes:
    - 5 California Essays
    - 1 California Performance Test
- Attorneys with less than four years of active status or who are inactive/not in good standing must take the full two-day California Bar Exam, which includes the Multiple-Choice component
- CA CLE Requirements: 25 hours every 3 years



# New York as a Second Jurisdiction

- If you take the UBE in a different jurisdiction, you have 3 years to apply and transfer your UBE score to New York
  - You will have to complete all the requirements for admission
    - Pass the MPRE with an 85 or higher
    - Character & Fitness Application
    - New York Law Course and Exam
    - 50 Pro Bono Hours
    - Skills & Competency Requirement
- If you take a non-UBE bar exam or are unable to transfer your UBE score to New York within 3 years, you may be able to apply by Admission by Motion if your “home” jurisdiction has reciprocity with New York
  - The following states do NOT have reciprocity with New York:
    - **Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virgin Islands**
  - You have to have actual practice of law for 5 of the last 7 years to be eligible
- NY CLE Requirements: 24 hours every 2 years





# DC as a Second Jurisdiction

- If you take the UBE in a different jurisdiction, you have 5 years to apply and transfer your UBE score to the District of Columbia
  - You will have to complete all the requirements for admission
    - Pass the MPRE with a 75 or higher
    - NCBE Character & Fitness Application
- If you take a non-UBE bar exam or are unable to transfer your UBE score to DC within 5 years, you may be able to apply by Admission by Motion
  - You need to be a member in good standing of the Bar of a jurisdiction in the US for 3 years immediately preceding the date of your application
- DC CLE Requirements: None



# CLE Requirements

- None: DC, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, South Dakota
- 3 Hours/Year: Alaska, Hawaii
- 10 Hours/Year: Nebraska, Rhode Island
- 12 Hours/Year: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia
- 12.5 Hours/Year: Louisiana
- 13 Hours/Year: Nevada
- 14 Hours/Year: South Carolina
- 15 Hours/Year: Arizona, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming
- 24 Hours/2 Years: Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Vermont, Virgin Islands, West Virginia
- 25 Hours/3 Years: California
- 30 Hours/2 Years: Illinois, Wisconsin
- 30 Hours/3 Years: Idaho
- 33 Hours/3 Years: Florida
- 36 Hours/3 Years: Indiana
- 45 Hours/3 Years: Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington



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