

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

California State Bar Information

Revision history: Formerly a part of the annually revised Student Handbook. Established as a standalone policy August 2022.

Related policies: [LIST POLICIES].

Scheduled Review Date: June 2024 (Academic Success and Bar Related Programs Office)

Students seeking admission to the California Bar (or any state bar) must assume responsibility for complying with all requirements. Compliance with degree and certification requirements will qualify graduates for taking the California Bar Exam and bar exams in most other states, as well as the District of Columbia. Some states, such as New York, have more rigid requirements, especially with respect to limits on clinical and other non-classroom course work. Indiana, for example, prescribes a specific number of semester hours of legal ethics or professional responsibility in order to take their bar exam. Students should consult admission rules for states to which they intend to apply and correspond with bar examiners of the appropriate state to ensure knowledge of the state's current requirements. Copies of the California State Bar Rules are available at <http://rules.calbar.ca.gov>. Questions and selected answers from past bar exams from 2012 on are also available on the state bar website under admissions at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/>.

A. California State Bar Application

The California State Bar's Office of Admissions provides applicants with information regarding registration as a law student, moral character applications and California Bar Examination applications through their website at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>. Applicants must submit their registration and/or examination applications through the bar admissions section of the website.

In order to prepare students for the California General Bar Examination, the following is a list of applications that must be completed during law school. The fees listed are set by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California and, for the MPRE, the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Students are urged to contact the appropriate

authorities to ascertain any changes. See <http://rules.calbar.ca.gov> and <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre>.

1. Registration as a Law Student (\$119)
2. Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) (\$135)
May be taken after completing the Legal Profession course.
3. Application for Determination of Moral Character (\$551)
After an initial positive moral character determination, application is valid for twenty-four (24) months. A student is encouraged to file an application eight to ten months prior to the date the student plans to be admitted to practice law.
4. Application to Take the California Bar Examination (\$677)

B. Registration as a First-Year Law Student

All persons intending to practice law in California must register with the Committee of Bar Examiners within three months after commencing the study of law. Applications may be accessed through the State Bar's website at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>. Information concerning the requirements of other jurisdictions must be secured by the individual.

C. Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)

Information for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) application may be obtained at <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre>.

D. Character and Fitness

Students should be aware that, at the conclusion of their legal studies, Southwestern is required to provide the bar examiners in every state with an assessment of the student's character and fitness for the practice of law. The Southwestern Student Honor Code sets out a number of specific standards that students are expected to meet and exceed. (See section in this Handbook entitled *Student Conduct*.) In addition, students should be aware that in all their dealings while law students, on- or off-campus, they are also expected to conform to the requirements of the Code of Professional Responsibility and meet their obligation as citizens and members of the legal profession.

E. Admission to California State Bar

Inquiries concerning admission to the California State Bar should be directed to the Office of Admissions, The State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515, telephone (213) 765-1000. The web address is <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>.

F. Scope of the California Bar Examination

1. The California Bar Examination is structured so that applicants may be required to answer questions involving issues from all of the subjects listed below:
 - Business Associations
 - Civil Procedure
 - Community Property
 - Constitutional Law
 - Contracts
 - Criminal Law and Procedure
 - Evidence
 - Professional Responsibility
 - Real Property
 - Remedies
 - Torts
 - Trusts
 - Wills and Succession

2. Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) - The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) is developed and graded by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). This portion of the General Bar Examination is an objective six-hour examination containing 200 questions, which is divided into two three-hour sessions during which 100 questions are administered. The MBE tests seven subjects: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. Information regarding the MBE and an online practice examination are available through the NCBE's Web site at <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mbe/>.

G. Qualifications of International Attorneys to Take the California Bar Exam

Attorneys from foreign jurisdictions should contact the Committee of Bar Examiners to determine what requirements are applicable to them to take the California Bar Exam. There is information on the requirements for those with a foreign legal education at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov>.

H. Requirements for Other Jurisdictions

Students who intend to seek admission to practice law in a jurisdiction other than California should visit the jurisdiction's website for a complete list of requirements. Please note that some jurisdictions, such as New York, require applicants complete 50 hours of pro bono work before they can be sworn into the bar. For more information about admission requirements for jurisdiction other than California, please see the National Conference of Bar Examiners website, <http://www.ncbex.org>, which provides A

Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements and jurisdiction information including bar admission agency contact listings.