

Massachusetts

Bar Admission Checklist

The Massachusetts bar admissions process is lengthy and intricate, but we're here to guide you. There are many steps involved as the date of the exam nears. Start at least a year (or more, if you can) in advance of the bar exam date. Here's what you need to know and do for Massachusetts Bar admission:

☐ Create an NCBE Account | Before Petition

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 MPRE (see below) and the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam), which are developed by the NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners). The MBE is administered on day two of the Massachusetts Bar Exam.

Most students create an NCBE account when registering for the MPRE. Register with the NCBE at: <https://auth.ncbex.org/account/create>

☐ Take the MPRE | Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam

We recommend taking the MPRE any time during your 2L year or as early in your 3L year as possible. Massachusetts requires an MPRE scaled score of **85** or greater PRIOR to filling out a bar exam application. Scores range from 50 to 150. A raw score of approximately 32 correct out of 50 usually converts to a scaled score of 85.

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.

MPRE dates	Registration deadline (fee: \$160)	Scan for more information
November 7 or 8, 2024	September 18, 2024	
March 26 or 27, 2025	January 23, 2025	
August 20 or 21, 2025	June 18, 2025	
November 13 or 14, 2025	September 25, 2025	

You can register for the free BARBRI MPRE Review Course here: barbri.com/mpre

The online, on-demand BARBRI MPRE Review course allows you to watch specific lecture segments that correspond with a particular topic module. The course is accompanied by an outline book (hard copy and/or digital), lecture handout, multiple practice exams, and BARBRI's exclusive multiple-choice questions.

Secure Your Bar Prep Course | Start Early for Full Advantages

Ready for bar prep? We're here for you. We've spent over 50 years optimizing and investing in legal education and bar review. That's a proven track record. And that's why every minute you spend with BARBRI Bar Review statistically increases your chances of passing.



Most passes

Nearly 90% of our students who do the average amount of prep pass the bar exam. Don't just take our word for it, though. Ask the 1.435 million lawyers, judges and legal professionals who have passed using BARBRI.



Most personalized

BARBRI is personalized to you from the beginning. ISAAC is the proprietary engine that creates a smart bar prep Personal Study Plan for you from day one. It updates based on time left until your exam, customizations you make, and the most statistically significant topics for passing the bar.



Most points

Master bar exam content with expert lectures from the best law professors in the country and a bank of 5K+ practice multiple-choice questions. The result? Studies show BARBRI students score more points compared to students who don't study with BARBRI.



Most students

The largest pool of students prepare for the bar with BARBRI. In fact, more students prepare with BARBRI every year than all other bar prep courses – combined. For an exam with a curved score, that means you can trust us to analyze your chances of passing before you even sit for the exam.

Enroll early and gain immediate access to 2L/3L Success and early access to Early Start Bar Review. **Enroll at:** barbri.com/pricing.

If you are billing a firm, congratulations. BARBRI has trusted direct billing relationships with over 500 law firms. **Learn more about billing a law firm at:** barbri.com/firm-pay.

If you're going into Public Interest, you may qualify for a BARBRI Bar Review Public Interest Scholarship. **Apply in less than 5 minutes at:** barbri.com/public-interest.

Petition for The Bar Exam | File By Deadline

Bar exam petition deadline:

Your Petition for Admission to the Massachusetts bar by Examination must be filed with the Supreme Judicial Court for The County of Suffolk **at least 75 days prior to the exam**. The official filing period will be posted on the examiners website in the months leading up to the exam. Completed Petitions, including all filing requirements, will be referred to the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) to determine whether you have the qualifications and requirements for admission.

Note, if you are applying for non-standard test accommodations, the filing period for the February exam is August 1 – November 1, and the filing period for the July exam is January 1 – April 1.

It's important to be aware of the bar exam fees and the BBE fee schedules. The deadline for each exam administration is set by the Supreme Judicial Court Clerk's Office for Suffolk County.

Exam Petition Fee: **\$815**

Technology Fee: **\$75**

E-filing fee: **\$22**

Find Petition for Admission instructions, forms and details at: mass.gov/guides/guide-to-filing-a-petition-for-admission-by-examination-first-time

Find information on test accommodations at: mass.gov/guides/nonstandard-testing-accommodations-for-the-bar-exam



For more information and exam details, download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest at: www.barbri.com/bar-exam-digest or by scanning the code.

□ Answer Character + Fitness Questions | Start Early, Expect a Thorough Check

In Massachusetts, your Petition for Admission by Examination will incorporate character and fitness questions – this is not a separate application. The BBE will then conduct an internal investigation based on your responses.

You will be asked to disclose details about your academic history, your residential history for the past 5 years, and your employment history since 18. You will also need to include your law school certificate. Additionally, you will need 2 letters of recommendation with one being from an attorney, as well as any criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key.

□ Register Your Laptop | Use for Essays

You can use a laptop for the essay portion of the Massachusetts Bar Exam. Be sure to sign the Bar Exam Laptop Computer Testing Program form and include it, with the **\$75** fee payment, as part of your filed petition. You'll then receive an email from ExamSoft about how to register your laptop. ExamSoft will directly bill you a software license and service fee of **\$97.35** to your email address on file. ExamSoft will require you complete a mock exam to certify your computer for the bar exam.

Full details regarding the Laptop Computer Testing Program, visit: mass.gov/service-details/using-your-laptop-at-the-bar-exam

□ Take the Bar Exam | February 25-26, 2025 / July 29-30, 2025

Massachusetts uses the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) and requires a passing score of 270 out of a total of 400 points.

UBE scores are based on:

- **20%** – Two Multistate Performance Test (MPT) questions on day one (morning session)
- **30%** – Six Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) questions on day one (afternoon session)
- **50%** – 200-question, multiple-choice Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on day two (morning and afternoon sessions)

MPT format: "Closed universe" practical questions using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes, and other reference material supplied by examiners

MEE essay subjects: Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Conflict of Laws*, Family Law*, Trusts and Estates (Decedents' Estates; Trusts and Future Interests)*, Article 9 (Secured Transactions) of the Uniform Commercial Code* plus all MBE subjects

*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.

MBE subjects tested: Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts

□ Complete MLC | Massachusetts Law Component

Petitioners seeking admission in Massachusetts are required to complete the Massachusetts Law Component (MLC). This untimed, online, open-book, multiple-choice test covers the essential highlights and key distinctions of Massachusetts law and procedure. You must certify your successful completion of the MLC to the BBE. The BBE recommends you take the MLC after the bar exam. The deadline is March 31 for February applicants and September 30 for July applicants.

For additional MLC details, including how to start and study outlines, go here: mass.gov/how-to/the-massachusetts-law-component-mlc

Massachusetts State Bar

All information derived from the Massachusetts BBE website at: mass.gov/seeking-admission-to-the-bar-in-massachusetts

For questions or to find your school's BARBRI Director of Legal Education, please contact: service@barbri.com.

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