



## Bar Examination Application Instructions

Please do not submit these instructions with your application materials.

- Interested in either retaking or deferring the exam? [See this page for instructions](#) [link].
- You are responsible for reviewing the [Rules Governing Admission](#) [link] to ensure that you are qualified to apply to sit for the Bar Examination in New Mexico. If you did not receive a J.D. from an ABA-accredited law school, see [Information for Non-ABA Applicants](#) [link].
- New Mexico does not allow examinees to sit for the exam on a “courtesy” basis. All New Mexico examinees must be bona fide applicants for admission to the New Mexico bar.
- Please note that our deadlines are in-office, and not postmark, deadlines and are firm. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Hand-delivery is not permitted.
- Questions? [Visit our Q&A section on Slack](#) [link] (free, registration required).

## General Instructions

- Please refer to the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners (NMBBE) website for all application documents and links: <http://www.nmexam.org/bar-exam/take-the-bar-exam/process-forms-deadlines/> [link].
- All application documents must be typed, except for notary information, which may be hand-written, and signatures or initials. All notarizations and signatures must be hand-signed originals.
- Do not staple, tab, bind, or paperclip any part of the application materials or forms except where instructed to do so.
- You must answer all questions completely and make answers as specific as possible.
- Applicants who fail to respond to NMBBE staff or National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) investigator requests in a timely manner may be required to resubmit their application materials and fees.
- If information becomes available subsequent to the date of your application, you must supplement the application as soon as that information becomes known to you and prior to your admission. Supplementation must be made to both the NCBE and the NMBBE.
- Please keep copies of all documents submitted. To receive a copy of your submitted materials, you must [request a copy of your file](#) [link].
- If you wish to also authorize a third party to speak with NMBBE staff about your application, you must provide written, signed authorization naming that person and granting him or her permission to communicate about your file. There is no form document for this authorization.

The following documents must be submitted in a single application envelope, by the filing deadline:

1. **New Mexico Bar Exam Cover Sheet**, filled out on a computer and initialed.
2. **Application fee** in the form of a personal or business check, money order, or certified check payable to the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners or by credit card via our credit card authorization form. The Board does not accept cash payments. The amounts are listed at <http://www.nmexam.org/bar-exam/take-the-bar-exam/process-forms-deadlines/>.
3. **Confirmation of NCBE Number Certification**. All examinees are required to certify to the NCBE that they will be sitting for the Bar Exam in this state and to demonstrate that they have done so to the Board. To certify your NCBE number:
  - Log into or create your NCBE account at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)
  - Along the left-hand side of the Dashboard, select Bar Exams
  - Select Bar Exam Date Month: [select applicable month]
  - Select Bar Exam Date Year: [select applicable year]
  - Select Testing Jurisdiction: New Mexico
  - Click Add New, then print the confirmation page (this shows your name and that you're signed up for the applicable exam) and include a copy of that printout with your application packet.
4. **NCBE Character and Fitness Application form and any additional documents required as part of that form** (one original, notarized and with original signatures). The application link takes you to the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) web site to access their Character and Fitness Application, which is also our application for the Bar Exam. The application must be filled out online on the NCBE website and then printed out to be mailed to our office. Please send an original printout of the application, signed and notarized, which will include the notarized **acknowledgement page**, to the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners; any required additional documents, including the acknowledgement page, are linked from the NCBE Completion Checklist and must contain original signatures. There is a \$25 fee for submitting this form, which is paid directly to the NCBE.
5. **Two signed and notarized originals of the Authorization and Release Form** for the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners; must contain original signatures.
6. **Three character and fitness statements** from attorneys in good standing in any U.S. state. You should request attorneys that know you to complete these forms. These attorneys must be in addition to those persons listed in the body of the Character and Fitness Application Form. They may not be relatives. Law school professors may complete these forms, provided they are attorneys in good standing in one or more jurisdictions in the United States. Among other things, good standing means active membership in a state bar. The forms must be originals and current. If the attorney prefers, they may submit a form via mail, fax, or email directly to our offices, but any form submitted by the applicant must be an original and all forms must be received by the filing deadline.

7. **A credit report** from one of the three major credit reporting agencies (Transunion, Equifax, or Experian) printed within 30 days of submitting your application. You may secure a free credit report from each of these agencies at least once per year at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/> [link]. Complete paid reports from these agencies will also be accepted. Reports secured through third parties (including Credit Karma, mortgage companies, and other third parties) and incomplete or abbreviated credit reports will not be accepted. The report may be printed double-sided. Please note that data on your credit report will be cross-referenced to disclosures on your application; check it carefully. If you do not know the meaning of a term found on the credit report (e.g. “charge-off”), please research it before assuming it means that you do not still have a liability.
8. **Certificate(s) of Good Standing and Statement(s) of Discipline from each state in which you are or ever have been licensed**, other than New Mexico. This does not apply to any applicant who is not already licensed in another state. If you become licensed after submitting your application to New Mexico, you must also submit these documents from that new state. You must provide the originals; we cannot accept copies. In most but not all states, the Certificate of Good Standing and Statement of Discipline are separate documents provided by separate state entities. The Certificate of Good standing must state whether your license is currently in good standing *or* was in good standing when you withdrew or went inactive in that state. The Statement of Discipline is an official record of all discipline in that state, past and pending. The Statement must be provided regardless of whether you have received discipline in that state and may not just be a printout from a state bar website.
9. **Laptop Release of Liability Form**, if applicable. You must submit a release of liability form in order to use your laptop to write the exam; it must contain your original signature. If you later change your mind and choose not take the exam on laptop, submitting the form does not commit you to registering for the software. Prior to the exam, you will pay \$100 directly to ExamSoft, our software provider, as part of the laptop registration process.
10. **Test Accommodation Request**, if applicable. Please be sure to read the Policy and follow all instructions carefully; incomplete or late requests will be rejected.

The following items must be requested by the applicant and sent directly to the NMBBE by the issuing entity; they must be received before you will be authorized to sit for the Bar Exam, but need not be received before you submit your application:

- **Transcript from law school with evidence of graduation** (do not send diploma). Your final and complete official transcript from law school should indicate that you were awarded your J.D. and on what date. The transcript must be sent to the NMBBE offices directly from the law school or university registrar, either by post or via an official transcript service. Student copies, unofficial transcripts, and photocopies are not acceptable.
- **Law School Certification Form**. The law school certification form must be sent directly to the NMBBE offices by the law school. This form is found on our website.

- **FBI and NM State Criminal Records.** Follow the instructions on the NMBBE website to secure these records, which are sent directly to the NMBBE.

These items must be completed and/or submitted before you can be admitted to the Bar:

- **Passing Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) Score.** Score must be provided through the NCBE's score transfer service. A passing scaled score of 80 or above achieved no more than five (5) years before filing a first application for admission in New Mexico will be accepted. If you took this exam previously for another jurisdiction, you may have that score certified here; if you requested that the score be sent at the time you took the exam, you must so state on the New Mexico Bar Exam Cover Sheet and provide the month and year of that exam. This board does not administer the MPRE and you may take it in any location/state it is offered.
- **Completion of the required class in New Mexico law.**

**Application materials must be mailed to:**

Bar Exam Application  
New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners  
2440 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Ste. 280  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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