



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION - ELIGIBILITY

PROOF OF LAW STUDY

Following the filing of the application to take the General Bar Examination, certification forms will be mailed to the applicant's law school for completion. The school must certify the applicant's educational eligibility in compliance with the *Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California*. If the law school fails to provide such certification or certified transcripts, the applicant will be notified 10 business days prior to the final eligibility deadline. If proof of law study is not provided by the final eligibility deadline, the application will be abandoned and no refund of fees will be paid.

If the school provides a certification, they must also submit a certified law school transcript. It can be submitted with the certification or separately no later than 15 days following administration of the examination. Failure to do so will result in the applicant's eligibility status being voided, and the applicant will not be eligible for any subsequent examination until the transcript is received.

Most law schools located outside of California require that applicants personally request and submit a fee for certified transcripts. If an applicant's law school requires that the applicant personally request transcripts and/or pay a transcript fee, the applicant will need to fulfill the requirements for the release of the required transcripts.

Applicants who submit applications less than three weeks prior to the final filing deadline are advised to contact their law schools directly to request that certified transcripts be sent to the Office of Admissions prior to the final eligibility deadline to avoid abandonment of the application.

Note: Foreign educated applicants should contact the Office of Admissions regarding eligibility before filing an application.

ATTORNEY ELIGIBILITY (First-time Attorney Applicants)

An applicant who has been admitted as an attorney in another United States jurisdiction or to the highest court of a foreign jurisdiction is considered an attorney applicant. For the purpose of determining an attorney applicant's eligibility to take either the General Bar Examination or Attorneys' Examination, proof of admission (a current Certificate of Good Standing) from the highest court of each jurisdiction to which the applicant has been admitted must be submitted to the Los Angeles Office of Admissions. Proof of admission must be received no later than the final eligibility deadline. All attorney applicants must indicate on the application whether they are applying to take the General Bar or Attorneys' Examination.

Attorney applicants admitted in the United States for less than four years and those admitted in the United States, but not in good standing in the jurisdiction to which admitted, must apply to take the General Bar Examination as attorney applicants. Applicants admitted in foreign jurisdictions are not eligible to take the Attorneys' Examination and must apply to take the General Bar Examination.

Attorney applicants admitted in the United States who submit proof that they have been active members in good standing for at least four years immediately preceding the first day of the administration of the California Bar Examination for which the applicant applied to take the examination may elect to take the Attorneys' Examination. Once an attorney applicant is determined eligible to take the Attorneys' Examination, he/she must immediately notify the Committee regarding any status change in membership to the bar of any jurisdiction to which admitted. Upon notification, a determination must be made as to whether the applicant's eligibility for the Attorneys' Examination is affected.

Applicants for the Attorneys' Examination will not be permitted to take the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). Written notification of an attorney's decision to take the General Bar Examination instead of the Attorneys' Examination must be received in the Office of Admissions on or before the final filing deadline. It

will not be possible to allow a change after that date, and **applicants must pass the examination selected and approved by the Office of Admissions.**

If proof of admission is not received by the final eligibility deadline the application will be abandoned and no refund of fees will be paid.

FOREIGN EDUCATED (NON-ATTORNEY) ELIGIBILITY

First-time applicants whose legal education was obtained outside the United States and who are not admitted to practice law in that foreign jurisdiction must request an evaluation from the Office of Admissions for a determination of eligibility to take the bar examination. It is recommended that this be done before filing the application for the examination to avoid paying the application fee, a portion of which is not refundable if the applicant is not eligible for the examination.

Applicants whose legal education was obtained in non-common law of England jurisdictions and who are not admitted to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction are not eligible to take the General Bar Examination without completing additional law study. Such applicants must contact the Eligibility Section of the Office of Admissions for further information regarding qualification to take the bar examination.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants for an examination who are subsequently found not to have completed the requisite legal education will be deemed ineligible. Such applicants are entitled to a 60% refund of all qualifying fees paid in connection with the examination if transcripts proving ineligibility are received in the Office of Admissions no later than the final eligibility deadline. **No refund will be processed unless academic deficiency is substantiated by certified law school transcripts, and such transcripts indicating all law study completed must be received by the Office of Admissions no later than final eligibility deadline.**

Those applicants who will not meet their school's graduation requirements prior to the administration of the examination, but who meet the requirements of Rule VII, Section 2(b) of the *Rules* for eligibility to take the Bar Examination will be considered eligible and **will not** be entitled to a refund of fees due to ineligibility.