



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

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**QUALIFICATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN  
CALIFORNIA BY LAW STUDENTS RECEIVING THEIR LEGAL  
EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

The requirements for admission to practice law in California are contained in the *Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California (Rules)*. The following is a summary of the requirements for law students who have received their legal education outside the United States. For the specific requirements, refer to the *Rules*.

To be admitted to practice law in California, an applicant must comply with the requirements outlined in Rule II, *Rules*, which include: 1) completion of the requisite pre-legal and legal education; 2) registration as a law student; 3) passage or exemption from the First-Year Law Students' Examination; 4) a positive moral character determination; 5) passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination; and, 6) passage of the California Bar Examination. Additionally, an applicant must not be certified by the State Department of Social Services as being in non-compliance with a court ordered child or family support obligation.

All applicants for admission are required to provide a social security number pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 30 (California's tax enforcement provisions) and Family Code Section 17520 (Child Support Enforcement Program). Effective January 1, 2006, an applicant who does not have a social security number because he/she does not qualify for one, may request an exemption from the requirement of providing a social security number at the time they file an application with the Committee of Bar Examiners. More information regarding the social security number requirement and exemption are available online on the Admissions' portion of the State Bar's Web site at [www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions). Otherwise, there is no requirement of citizenship or residency.

Law students who received their legal education outside the United States must establish their eligibility to take the California Bar Examination by showing they have successfully completed the equivalent of two years of undergraduate studies and four years of legal studies in the United States. Law students educated outside the United States seeking to qualify to take the General Bar Examination must do the following:

1. Complete and file an "Application for Evaluation of Law Study Completed and Contemplated by Law Students Educated Outside the United States," with the required fee of \$100.00 (Application follows)
2. Provide an evaluated course breakdown of all post-secondary education, which was completed by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee), directly to the State Bar's Office of Admissions;
3. Provide a certified transcript of all legal studies completed, which must include the beginning and ending dates of enrollment, each class taken, the grade or mark received for each class and the date the degree was awarded; and,

4. File a Registration form and submit the required fees.

***Documents in a language other than English must be accompanied by a notarized translation by a disinterested party, which is attested to with respect to accuracy.***

Information provided by a credential evaluation agency regarding the number of years of study is considered advisory; the Committee of Bar Examiners reserves the right to make the final decision as to how much credit the law student will receive toward qualifying to take the General Bar Examination.

Law study completed in a foreign state or country where the common law of England is not the basis of jurisprudence can only be recognized towards the general education requirement and will not be considered as credit toward satisfying the legal education requirements contained in the *Rules*.

Law students who have received an LLM degree based on substantive classes from a law school approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee will be exempt from the requirement of taking and passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination (Rule VIII, *Rules*). It is recommended, however, that students have a law study evaluation completed before undertaking any additional law study in the United States in an attempt to qualify to take the California Bar Examination.

A determination of eligibility to take the California Bar Examination will be made after review of all required documents and applicants will thereafter be notified of their status regarding eligibility to take the California Bar Examination, exemption or the requirement to take the First-Year Law Students' Examination, and whether any additional course work is required.

[APPLICATION FOR EVALUATION OF LAW STUDY COMPLETED AND CONTEMPLATED BY LAW STUDENTS EDUCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES](#)

[CREDENTIAL EVALUATION SERVICES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS](#)