



FEBRUARY 2024 BAR EXAM FAQs

These FAQs are a living document. They are subject to revision and will be supplemented and updated as needed. Please also refer to the [key dates and deadlines](#) leading up to exam day. **Deadlines will not be extended, and it is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all deadlines.**

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IN-PERSON EXAM LOGISTICS

- 1. I've only taken a remote exam before. How will I be given the questions, and will there be water and restroom breaks?**
 - The administration of the exam will be the same as it was prior to the remote exam administrations. Essays 1–3 will be administered together without breaks during the morning session of Day 1; then, after a lunch break, applicants will return for Essays 4, 5, and the Performance Test, which will be administered together without breaks during the afternoon session of Day 1. The morning session of Day 2 will be comprised of the first 100 Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) questions, after which there will be a lunch break. The last 100 MBE questions will be given during the afternoon session of Day 2. [Please see the full schedule here.](#)
 - Applicants will receive the questions in a paper booklet and will be given scratch paper to use if they need.
 - Applicants will be allowed access to water during the exam. Please note that water fountains may not be available at all test sites. Test takers can bring one filled water bottle into the testing center. It must be a clear, plastic container with a lid, no larger than 32 ounces. It must have no labels or writing. To reduce the chance of accidental spillage, store water bottles on the floor away from exam materials.
 - Applicants may leave to use the restroom, but the clock will run continuously.
- 2. Where are the test centers for the February exam?**
 - [The test centers are listed here.](#) Please note that the State Bar will be using larger test sites for this exam administration. Applicants should anticipate a larger number of applicants at their site and arrive early to ensure sufficient time to park and settle

into their testing space. Since we will be using multiple spaces at the same location, applicants should look for signage to get to their specific testing space.

- All test centers will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, for test-takers who wish to familiarize themselves with the space. Please note that the exam rooms themselves will not be open for inspection before exam day.

3. Can I choose my test center?

- You will select a test center when you apply for the exam in the [Applicant Portal](#).
- Test centers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If your preferred test center is full when you apply, you will be required to choose another option. If you have to select a second-choice test center, you can check if space becomes available in your preferred test center and submit a test center change request to move to your desired test center.

4. Will we still use ExamSoft?

- ExamSoft will be used, but not the video proctoring. The proctoring will be conducted live by human proctors at the exam sites. Laptop users will use ExamSoft to type and submit their answers. Please review [the laptops webpage](#) for complete instructions.

5. Will there still be mock exam questions?

- A mock exam is still **mandatory/required** to familiarize yourself with the software. There is one required mock exam. Once you complete the mock exam, the exam files will download. [Please see the dates and deadlines here.](#)

6. What happens at an in-person site if the software crashes?

- At an in-person test site, if your laptop or the software crashes, you can switch to handwriting the exam. You will not be able to get individual troubleshooting help onsite. You will be required to notify your proctor who will provide you with a handwriting packet.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS/REFUNDS

7. Will there be COVID protocols in place?

- We will be following all federal, state, and local guidelines and taking additional precautions if necessary.
- Applicants can choose to wear masks during the exam. The masks will be subject to inspection at check in.
- The health and safety requirements for the bar exam will be reviewed as needed and are subject to change.

8. What will the seating be like at the test center?

- At a standard test center, applicants are seated at 8-foot tables, two to a table.

9. What if there is a new variant or another serious surge?

- If public health conditions change and a public health authority relevant to the testing center locations issues different mandates for in-person gatherings, we will update all applicants for the February 2024 bar exam accordingly.

10. What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 and cannot come to the exam?

- If you have COVID-19, or any illness, that prevents you from attending the bar exam, you may apply for the [95 percent medical refund of fees](#). Please note that medical documentation is required to be eligible for a refund.

11. I am an immunocompromised individual. Can I take the test remotely?

- It will not be possible for anyone to test remotely for the February 2024 bar exam. Because the bar exam relies on test material developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), and NCBE is anticipating an in-person February administration with their materials, the exam will be administered in person.
- Applicants may petition for testing accommodations and request a private room; the application process requires submission of medical documentation supporting the need. The petition and all supporting documentation must be submitted and in a complete status by the final filing deadline on January 2, 2024. The deadline will not be extended.

12. If I am a testing accommodation applicant that requires testing space with reduced distraction, what could I anticipate for the bar exam?

- For applicants with testing accommodations that are designed to limit auditory and visual interruptions during the exam, the State Bar will offer three modified testing environments outside of the standard testing environment:
 1. A “reduced-distraction room,” which may have up to 20 to 25 applicants per room, with desk partitions available upon request on site.
 2. A “semi-private room,” which may have up to five applicants per room, with desk partitions available upon request on site.
 3. A “private room,” which will have one applicant and at least one proctor per room.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATE BAR

13. Are there any communications I need to look for from the State Bar?

- First, make sure that you have added [@calbar.ca.gov](#) and [@examsoft.com](#) to your [safelist](#).
- Make sure to familiarize yourself with all the dates and deadlines related to the [February 2024 bar exam](#).
- Review the [admittance ticket bulletin](#) once it is posted.
- Starting six weeks before the exam, expect weekly Friday emails from the Office of

Admissions.

- Applicants applying for testing accommodations will receive additional communications regarding those requests.

NEWLY ADDED FAQs

14. What can I expect differently for this exam administration compared to previous ones?

- As part of the State Bar’s cost saving measures, an effort was made to reduce the number of test sites around the state. As a result, the exam will be held at larger test sites. Some of these test sites will be new to returning applicants. It is recommended that applicants familiarize themselves with their exam test location and arrive early to ensure that they are seated on time.
- Starting with the February 2024 exam, the State Bar will no longer be using book covers for the essays and performance test for applicants testing on a laptop. Applicants with testing accommodations to use special software, handwriters, and those needing to switch to handwriting due to a laptop malfunction will continue to use book covers.

15. What do the different case statuses mean, and how can I interpret them?

- Understanding the various case statuses is crucial for tracking progress and staying informed. Log into your [Applicant Portal](#) and click the Application Status – “Status Definition” icon for a list of case statuses and descriptions.

16. What do I need to know about the new testing centers?

Applicants testing at these new locations should be aware of the following information:

Cow Palace–Daly City, 2600 Geneva Avenue:

- There are limited lunch options nearby, so applicants should consider bringing food to eat during the one-hour lunch break. We also expect to have several food truck vendors on site.
- This venue is designed to accommodate up to 1,920 applicants at three test centers. When you arrive in the parking lot, look for signs directing you to park near your assigned test center. Leave plenty of time to find your testing location and check in.

State Bar of California–Los Angeles, 845 South Figueroa Street:

- If driving to the test center, leave adequate time to find and pay for long-term parking. There are several parking lots and garages in the vicinity.
- Note the building address on your admittance ticket. Up to 95 people will be

- assigned to 845 South Figueroa Street, and up to 30 people will be assigned to 865 South Figueroa Street next door.
- Build in extra time to go through security before you are escorted to your exam space, which could be a conference room, office, or cubicle.

Judicial Council Office—San Francisco, 455 Golden Gate Avenue:

- If driving to the test center, leave adequate time to find and pay for parking. There are several parking lots and garages in the vicinity.
- Check-in for up to 96 applicants will be on the lower level of the building.
- Build in extra time to go through security and find your exam space, which could be on the third floor or the lower level.

Hotel Fera—Anaheim, 100 The City Drive North, Orange:

- This is not a new location, but a name change for the hotel formerly known as DoubleTree Orange.

UPDATES

2/8/2024

- Question 16 added.
- Questions 1 and 2 under In-Person Exam Logistics edited.
- Question 13 under Communications from the State Bar, link added.

1/31/2024

- Questions 14 and 15 added.