

January 26, 2024



With less than five weeks to go before the February 27–28 Bar Exam, here's what you need to know to make sure you're ready for exam day. We'll be sending you these countdown emails weekly until the exam.

Key Dates and Deadlines

January 30: First day that [Admittance Tickets](#) are available

January 30: First day that laptop users may download and take the **mandatory** mock exam

February 1: Deadline to appeal the outcome of a testing accommodations petition

February 2: Deadline for applicants from San Diego and Sacramento areas to withdraw for credit (see notice below)

February 23: Deadline for laptop users to complete the mandatory mock exam and download exam files

February 29 (12:00 P.M. Pacific Time): Deadline for laptop users to upload answer files

[More Bar Exam Dates and Deadlines](#)

Admittance Tickets and Mock Exams Coming Next Week

Beginning January 30, once the State Bar has verified your eligibility to sit for the exam, your admittance ticket will be available in the Applicant Portal. Shortly after, approved applicants using laptops will receive an email from ExamSoft with instructions for downloading the exam software and taking the **mandatory** mock exam by February 23.

- Read the [Admittance Ticket Bulletin](#) for important exam-day information.
- Ensure your laptop meets the [minimum system requirements](#) outlined by exam software provider ExamSoft.
- Learn more about [using laptops](#) for the February 2024 bar exam, so you will be ready when the software becomes available for download after January 30.
- Review [instructional videos and guides](#) on taking the mock exam.

Logistical Updates for the February Exam

Starting with the February 2024 exam, the State Bar has reduced the number of testing centers throughout the state to save costs. Visit the [Testing Locations](#) webpage for more information.

Applicants should anticipate more applicants at the test sites and arrive early to ensure sufficient time to park and settle into their testing space. We will send more information about the new test centers closer to the exam to help test takers prepare for these changes.

Repeat test-takers may also notice these small logistical changes on exam day:

- Test takers can now bring one 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.
- The paper booklet containing exam questions for laptop users will no longer have a cardstock cover.

[Consult our FAQs](#) for more information about logistics, health and safety requirements, and how to ensure you receive important communications from the State Bar and ExamSoft.

Notice to Examinees from the Sacramento and San Diego Areas

Following public input at the January 18 Board of Trustees meeting, applicants from the Sacramento and San Diego metropolitan areas can request to withdraw from the February 2024 bar exam and apply their paid fees as a credit to the July 2024 bar exam. Recognizing that the February 2024 bar exam test sites did not include sites in Sacramento and San Diego and that the July 2024 bar exam will include sites in, or close to, these two cities, the Office of Admissions is offering this option as a one-time courtesy.

Applicants requesting an exam credit may submit a general request via the [Applicant Portal](#). Please select Type → Applicant Support and Subtype → NorCal Test Sites.

The cut-off date to make this request is 11:59 p.m. on February 2, 2024. Applicants residing outside the Sacramento or San Diego metropolitan areas are not entitled to this credit. The intent of this exception is to allow applicants to test locally; applicants from outside the Sacramento and San Diego area cannot request to withdraw and be issued this credit.

Applicants who request a credit for their February 2024 bar exam and are subsequently unable or unwilling to sit for the July 2024 bar exam will forfeit their February 2024 bar exam fees.

Any other applicant wishing to withdraw from this exam will be subject to the deadlines noted on the [bar exam landing page](#).

Exam Day Tips from the State Bar's Public Trust Liaison

Enrique Zuniga has been a bar exam taker, just like you. As the State Bar of California's first-ever [public trust liaison](#), he is here to help you.

Here are three steps he took to ease stress so he could perform his best on exam day:

- Eating the same thing for breakfast and lunch in the days and weeks leading up to the exam kept his energy levels up and gave him one less decision to make every day. On exam day, he ate that same breakfast (fried egg, ham, cheese, and toast) and packed that same lunch (a ham and cheese sandwich with tomato and lettuce and a bag of chips with a bottle of water and a Starbucks drink) in a cooler. That way, he avoided the long restaurant lines near the test centers and didn't have to worry about eating something that didn't agree with him.
- Keeping a routine sleep schedule leading up to the exam ensured he was well-rested.

- Scouting out the exam location in advance reassured him that he would know precisely how long it would take to get to the test center, leaving plenty of time for traffic or other unexpected obstacles.

“Think of it like the Olympics. It’s a privilege simply to be here. That mindset will put you in a position of gratitude and take away the pressure,” Zuniga said. “I wish you all the best of luck. Trust your instincts. Most people know more than they realize.”

For questions or concerns about any Admissions issue you have been unable to resolve through other channels at the State Bar, fill out this [inquiry form](#).

How to Appeal Testing Accommodations Outcome

Applicants who were denied testing accommodations or did not receive the accommodations they requested have until February 1 to file an appeal. Appeals may be made in the [Applicant Portal](#). The appeal must specify, under penalty of perjury, the reasons you disagree with the determination and include any supporting documentation or evidence. Applicants with a newly acquired injury or disability have until February 16 to file an emergency petition with supporting medical documentation.

Hotel Discounts Expiring Soon

Some hotels are still [offering special rates](#) for bar exam applicants, but final cut-off dates are coming soon. Please pay attention to when the courtesy rates expire at each hotel. When registering, request the group rate for the State Bar of California exam.

Need Help?

[Bar Exam FAQs](#)

[Bar Exam Schedule](#)

[Laptops for the Bar Exam](#)

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