



The State Bar of California

Dear Applicants,

Welcome to the second installment of the State Bar's Bar Exam Countdown Email series.

Last week, we provided an overview of what to expect on the July 2026 California Bar Exam, including the exam-day schedule and key deadlines. As always, you can find copies of all past emails on the [Bar Exam Emails webpage](#).

This week, we're focusing on three critical topics: your Admittance Ticket and the Admittance Ticket Bulletin, how to prepare your laptop for the written sessions, and completing the mandatory mock exam.

YOUR ADMITTANCE TICKET AND BULLETIN

Starting June 30, applicants who are approved to sit for the exam will receive an email from the State Bar letting them know their Admittance Ticket is available in the [Applicant Portal](#).

What you need to know about your Admittance Ticket:

- You must [print](#) and bring your Admittance Ticket to each exam session—it's required for entry. Keep your ticket with you at all times during the exam.
- Your Admittance Ticket *must not* contain any additional writing or notes on it.
- Your ticket includes your Applicant Number and NCBE Number, which must be written on exam materials.
- Your ticket lists your assigned test center—you must report to the location shown on your ticket. Testing at a different site is not allowed. If your test center change request is approved after June 30, you must reprint and bring the updated ticket.
- If you notice any errors (e.g., misspelled name), notify the State Bar immediately through the [Applicant Portal](#) so a corrected ticket can be issued.
- If your eligibility status or request for a testing accommodation is still pending, your Admittance Ticket will be issued once it is finalized. The demographic information you provided when registering with the State Bar must be complete before you can receive your ticket. Your demographic information is considered complete even if you selected "Decline to Answer" for any question.
- Learn more about printing your Admittance Ticket on the [Help Center webpage](#).

Applicants are also advised to carefully review the [Admittance Ticket Bulletin](#), which contains important exam rules and policies. The Admittance Ticket Bulletin is emailed to applicants and is also accessible on the [July 2026 California Bar Exam webpage](#).

What you need to know about the Admittance Ticket Bulletin:

- The Admittance Ticket Bulletin outlines exam rules and policies, including attendance and identification requirements.
- The bulletin provides the exam schedule, timing procedures, and information about scheduled breaks.
- The bulletin lists permitted and prohibited items. The State Bar advises applicants to review these carefully, noting the differences between the written and MBE sessions.
- The bulletin includes important details about using a laptop for written sessions and provides specific instructions for applicants who will handwrite their responses.
- The bulletin offers tips for preparing for the test center environment, such as considerations for temperature and noise.
- The bulletin explains exam conduct requirements, including behaviors that may result in violations and sanctions, which are referred to as “Chapter 6” notices and violations.

PREPARING YOUR LAPTOP FOR THE WRITTEN SESSIONS

Applicants will type answers for the written sessions using ExamSoft’s Exemplify software on their own laptops. Hard copies of the questions will be provided, as will physical scratch paper. It is important that applicants follow the steps below to ensure their laptop is prepared.

What you need to do before exam day:

- Add @calbar.ca.gov, barsupport@examsoft.com, support@examsoft.com, noreply@examsoft.com, and @docusign.net to your contact or safe list so that you receive emails from ExamSoft before, during, and after the exam. For more information, visit the [Safelisting Tips webpage](#).
- Ensure your laptop meets the [minimum system requirements](#) for running Exemplify. Desktop computers and tablets with detachable keyboards (e.g., iPads and Surface tablets) are not supported.
- Beginning June 30, after your Admittance Ticket is issued, follow the instructions emailed to you by ExamSoft to download and install the latest version of Exemplify, register your laptop as a first-time or returning user, download the mock exam and bar exam files, and complete and upload the mock exam answer file.
- Complete the mandatory mock exam and upload your mock exam answer file by July 24. Failure to upload the mock exam file by the deadline means you cannot

use your laptop and must handwrite your responses. (See more about the mock exam below.)

- After uploading your mock exam file, ensure you receive an email confirmation of the upload. This completes the laptop registration process and confirms your laptop is approved for use on exam day.
- Do not make major changes (e.g., operating system updates) to your laptop after registering your laptop. If your laptop becomes inoperable after registration, you may request to register a new device and re-download exam files using the “Re-Download Exemplify” link. Review [ExamSoft’s instructions](#) for this process.

Need Help?

Review [ExamSoft’s Bar Applicant FAQs](#) or visit the [ExamSoft Support Page](#) for troubleshooting guides. Most issues can be resolved using ExamSoft’s support resources. Learn more about using a laptop by visiting the [Laptops for the California Bar Examination webpage](#).

COMPLETING THE MANDATORY MOCK EXAM

All applicants using a laptop for the written sessions must complete the mock exam and upload the mock exam answer file by July 24. Failure to upload the mock exam file means you cannot use your laptop and will be required to handwrite your responses for the bar exam.

What you need to know about the mock exam:

- The mock exam is not a practice bar exam. Its purpose is to verify your laptop works with Exemplify, familiarize you with opening, typing in, and uploading answer files, and confirm your keyboard and formatting functions (e.g., copy/paste, font size, bullet points) work properly.
- The password to access the mock exam will be included in an email from ExamSoft that will be sent beginning June 30.
- You must complete the mock exam at least once, but you may take it up to five times. To retake the mock exam, enter Exemplify, click “Refresh Exam List,” download the exam file again, and enter the password again to begin.
- An internet connection is required to download and upload the mock exam answer file. No internet is required while taking the mock exam.
- Learn more about the mock exam on [ExamSoft’s website](#).

CHECK YOUR ID

You must present a valid government-issued photo ID (such as a driver’s license, state ID card, or passport) on exam day. Your ID must display your first and last name exactly as shown on your Admittance Ticket. If the name on your ID does not match your Admittance Ticket, submit a name change request immediately by logging into the [Applicant Portal](#), selecting “Help Center”, and clicking “Name Change”.

UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- **June 30 – Admittance Tickets & Bulletin:** Admittance Tickets will start to be released in the [Applicant Portal](#) to applicants approved to sit for the exam. The ticket includes your test center assignment. You must bring this ticket with you each day of the exam. You'll also receive the Admittance Ticket Bulletin with exam rules, policies, and permitted/prohibited items lists. This bulletin is also available on the State Bar's website.
- **June 30 – ExamSoft registration opens:** Watch for an email from ExamSoft with instructions to download Examplify, complete the mandatory mock exam, and register your laptop. The email will be sent once applicants are deemed eligible to sit for the exam.
- **July 1 – Testing accommodations appeal:** This is the final deadline to submit testing accommodation appeals. All appeals must be submitted through the [Applicant Portal](#).
- **July 6 – Test center change:** This is the final deadline to submit a request to change your test center via the [Applicant Portal](#). We'll do our best to accommodate all change requests, but availability isn't guaranteed. Please allow at least 48 hours for processing. If your request is approved, you will receive a confirmation email. You must print a new copy of your Admittance Ticket reflecting the new test site. You will NOT be permitted to sit at any test center other than the one you have been approved for. If no seat is available at your requested test center, your request will remain active, but you won't hear from us after the initial email unless a seat becomes available.
- **July 14 – Withdraw:** Applicants wanting to withdraw from the exam must withdraw by this date. Please note that refunds of bar exam fees were only available for the first 30 or 45 days after the timely filing deadline. Refunds are no longer available for withdrawals except in the limited circumstances described in the [Refund of Fees Policy](#).
- **July 14 – Proof of eligibility:** This is the final deadline for law schools to submit proof of applicant eligibility, for applicants required to submit transcripts or provide proof of law study, and for attorney applicants to submit Certificates of Good Standing from all jurisdictions where they are licensed.
- **July 17 – Emergency testing accommodations:** This is the final deadline for those who become disabled after the final exam application filing deadline to submit an emergency testing accommodations request through the [Applicant Portal](#). This does not apply to disabilities that existed before the final exam application filing deadline.
- **July 24 – Laptop registration and mandatory mock exam:** This is the final deadline to complete the mandatory mock exam and register your laptop to use

on exam day. Failure to complete this step by July 24 means you will handwrite your responses on exam day.

NEXT WEEK'S EMAIL

Next week, we'll review the exam rules, policies, and the lists of permitted and prohibited items outlined in the Admittance Ticket Bulletin.

Sincerely,

Office of Admissions

The State Bar of California



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