



Dear Applicants,

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

Last week, we covered key information about your Admittance Ticket, how to prepare your laptop, and how to complete the mandatory mock exam. As always, you can find an archive of previous emails on the [Bar Exam Emails webpage](#).

This week, we're taking a closer look at the essential exam-day rules and policies outlined in the [Admittance Ticket Bulletin](#).

ADMITTANCE TICKET BULLETIN

The [Admittance Ticket Bulletin](#) is your go-to resource for exam-day preparation. It includes detailed rules, policies, and helpful tips—far more than we can include in this email. Below are the key highlights; however, please read the entire bulletin carefully.

Attendance Rules

Applicants must be on time for the exam. Applicants must be seated by 8:20 [a.m. each day](#). We recommend arriving at least 30 minutes early so you have ample time to find parking, check in, find your seat, and get settled. Instructions will begin shortly after the report time, at approximately 8:30 a.m. The exam will start immediately after the instructions conclude. Applicants who arrive one hour or more after the exam session begins (for either the morning or afternoon sessions) will not be allowed to take the exam. Applicants with certain testing accommodations will have a modified schedule and will be given a "report time" and "start time" in their Testing Accommodations Notice.

To enter the test center, you must bring:

- Your printed Admittance Ticket (with no extra writing or notes on it), and
- A valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license, state ID card, or passport). The ID must be in physical form; digital ID cards are not permitted.
 - The first and last name on your ID must exactly match your Admittance Ticket. If it doesn't, submit a name change request immediately, in advance of the exam, through the [Applicant Portal](#).
 - Your ID must be current and not have expired before the exam.

Applicants who are absent for any exam session will not be allowed to take the remaining sessions, their answers will not be graded, and they will be considered as not having taken the exam.

Applicants may leave the exam room after completing a session. However, if present when the 5-minute time warning is called during the written session or the 15-minute time warning is called during the session, applicants must remain seated until all applicants are released.

Conduct Rules

Any behavior that breaches exam security or disrupts the exam—such as bringing prohibited items, writing after time is called, looking at another applicant's materials, speaking during the exam, or failing to comply with instructions—will result in a conduct violation (Chapter 6 Notice) and [possible sanctions](#).

Permitted and Prohibited

The [Admittance Ticket Bulletin](#) lists which items are permitted and prohibited in the exam room. Review it carefully, and bring only those items specifically authorized. Please note, the list of prohibited items for the MBE sessions differs from the list for the written sessions. Additionally, the State Bar has received a waiver from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) to modify certain rules. As a result, the permitted and prohibited items for the MBE sessions may differ from those listed on NCBE's website.

Additional items approved as a testing accommodation are allowed in the exam room as listed in an applicant's Testing Accommodations Notice.

Applicants may bring permitted items into the exam room in a small, clear plastic bag no larger than one gallon. Larger permitted items, such as pillows, are not required to fit into the clear plastic bag.

Prohibited items must be left outside the exam area at the applicant's own risk. Applicants are not permitted to access prohibited items during an exam session. Bringing prohibited items into the exam room during an exam session may result in a Chapter 6 Notice and sanctions.

If a prohibited item is discovered after the exam has begun, State Bar staff or authorized personnel may be required to address the matter during the exam session, which may result in interruption to the applicant and others in the exam room.

Applicants who arrive with prohibited items may be delayed during the check-in process and may be required to surrender such items before being admitted to the exam area.

State Bar staff is not responsible for storing or securing prohibited items brought to the test center.

Testing Environment Tips

The State Bar makes every effort to maintain a comfortable and quiet test center environment. However, events, conditions, or actions of third parties may occur that are beyond the State Bar's control. On exam day, State Bar staff generally cannot move applicants (and applicants are not permitted to move themselves), and there are limited options to address individual environmental concerns. We strongly encourage applicants to plan ahead:

- [Dress in layers to stay comfortable in cool and warm temperatures](#). Exam rooms often fluctuate in temperature throughout the day.
- Use foam earplugs to address noise, which may include sounds from others taking the exam, proctors performing their duties, and other events in the same facility.

ADMITTANCE TICKETS

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

Admittance Ticket Reminders:

- 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](#).

UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

- **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 timing of 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 provide more details about completing the mandatory mock exam and registering your laptop for exam day.

Sincerely,

Office of Admissions
The State Bar of California

