



The State Bar of California

Dear Applicant,

The July 2025 California Bar Exam is just six weeks away—**which means it's time to kick off the State Bar's weekly Bar Exam Countdown Email series!**

Each week, you'll receive important updates, deadlines, and tips straight to your inbox. These emails are designed to answer common questions and spotlight what's most important each week. This week, we're starting with the basics: what to expect on the July exam. If you miss an email, don't worry! We will post each week's email online at the [Bar Exam Emails webpage](#).

July 2025 Bar Exam Overview

The July 2025 California Bar Exam will be held in person on Tuesday, July 29, and Wednesday, July 30 at testing sites across the state (those approved for extended time may continue beyond July 30). The exam is divided into two parts:

- **Day 1 – Written Sessions:** On Day 1, you'll complete five one-hour essay questions and one 90-minute Performance Test (PT). The morning session is three hours long and includes Essays 1 through 3. The afternoon session lasts three and a half hours and includes Essays 4 and 5, and the PT. Although the essays are designed to be completed in one hour, and the PT in 90 minutes, you may complete the questions in any order within each session and manage your time as you see fit. You'll receive printed exam materials and physical scratch paper. You must bring your own laptop for Day 1. Responses will be typed and submitted using ExamSoft's Examplify software. Internet is not required during the exam, but you must download Examplify and complete the mandatory mock exam by July 25.
- **Day 2 – Multiple-Choice Sessions:** Day 2 features the [Multistate Bar Examination \(MBE\)](#), 200 multiple-choice questions developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). The morning session is three hours long and covers the first 100 multiple-choice questions. The afternoon session is also three hours and covers the remaining 100 questions. Applicants will receive a printed question booklet and respond on a Scantron form, so make sure to bring #2 pencils with you (mechanical pencils are prohibited). Once the afternoon session begins, you may not return to questions from the morning.

Attorney applicants approved to take the Attorney's Exam only need to sit for Day 1. Applicants with approved accommodations will receive a modified [testing schedule](#).

For more information, visit the [July 2025 California Bar Exam webpage](#).

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **July 1 – Admittance Tickets and Bulletin:** Log in to the [Applicant Portal](#) to download your Admittance Ticket, which includes your test center assignment. This ticket is required each day of the exam. You'll also receive the Admittance Ticket Bulletin, which lists permitted/prohibited items and test-day policies.
- **July 1 – Deadline to appeal the outcome of a testing accommodations request:** If you wish to appeal a denied or modified accommodations request, submit your appeal in the Applicant Portal by this date.
- **July 7 – Deadline to request a test center change:** You may request a change through the Applicant Portal. We'll try to accommodate your preference but cannot guarantee availability. Please allow at least 48 hours for processing.
- **July 7 – ExamSoft registration opens:** ExamSoft will email you with instructions for downloading Examplify. You can begin your mandatory mock exam on the same day.

For more Key Dates and Deadlines, visit the [July 2025 California Bar Exam webpage](#).

Prepare to Use a Laptop

Starting July 7, ExamSoft will email you instructions for downloading Examplify, the secure software used to complete essays and the Performance Test. To sit for the exam, you must complete the mandatory mock exam by July 25. The mock exam ensures your device is compatible and that you're familiar with the platform. It's a crucial step that can prevent technical issues on test day.

- Learn more about [using laptops](#) for the July 2025 bar exam.
- Ensure your laptop meets the [minimum system requirements](#).
- Review [instructional videos and guides](#) on taking the mock exam to clearly understand the format and effectively prepare yourself for exam day.
- Please add barsupport@examsoft.com, support@examsoft.com, noreply@examsoft.com, and @calbar.ca.gov to your contact or email safe list so that you can receive critical emails.

Pending Application or Request

We know some of you are concerned about seeing a “pending” status in the Applicant Portal. Here's what those statuses mean:

- **Exam Application = Pending Internal:** Pending Internal: Your application is under review. No action is needed unless we contact you.
- **Exam Application = Pending Applicant:** We're waiting for something from you or your school. This status often appears while we're waiting for your law school to certify your eligibility (due by July 15). No action is needed unless we contact you.

Attorney applicants must submit a Certificate of Good Standing from each jurisdiction where they are licensed (due by July 15).

- **Eligibility = Conditionally Eligible:** Your law school certified your eligibility but didn't submit a transcript confirming your JD degree. You're cleared to sit for this bar exam but must submit an official transcript to take future exams or be admitted. If you already sat for a prior exam, you were notified to submit a transcript by July 15.
- **Testing Accommodations Request or Appeal = Pending Internal or Applicant:** There's nothing you need to do unless the State Bar contacts you for more information.

Support for Bar Exam Retakers

We know that retaking the bar exam can add its own extra challenges and bring up additional emotions. The State Bar of California Lawyer Assistance Program invites all bar exam retakers to participate in the [Reset: Bar Examination Retaker Support Program](#), designed to help candidates approach the bar exam with renewed confidence in their next attempt at the exam. Three live sessions are upcoming, and recordings of previous sessions are available.

- Resilience Reset (recorded)
- Essays (recorded)
- Performance Test (June 23, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) (June 30, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
- End Game Study Strategies & Self-Care for the Final Push (July 7, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Other Recent Updates

Fee Waiver for February 2025 Bar Exam Applicants: The Board of Trustees approved a bar exam fee waiver through 2026 for eligible applicants who were unsuccessful or withdrew from the February 2025 exam. July 2025 exam applicants who preferred to use the fee waiver on a later exam were initially told that they needed to withdraw by June 2 to apply the fee waiver on one future exam. On Friday, June 20, the Committee of Bar Examiners will consider recommending a change that, if approved by the Board of Trustees, would allow applicants to withdraw any time up to the day before the exam and retain their waiver for one future exam (*note: this is a correction, a previous version of this email incorrectly stated that the meeting would occur on July 20*). If recommended, the Board will consider this change on July 3. If approved, we'll let you know in an upcoming email so you can plan accordingly.

You can find more information about the State Bar's response to the February 2025 exam and related remedies on the [2025 Bar Exam Notices webpage](#).

November 2024 Special Session: Eligible applicants who sat for the November 2024 special session and met the performance threshold (28 correct responses), will have the

multiple-choice question scaled score adjustment automatically applied to the July 2025 exam. For those who withdraw from the July 2025 exam, the California Supreme Court approved of score adjustments being applied to the first bar exam an applicant takes in either 2025 or 2026.

Next Week's Email

Next week, we'll walk you through what's included in your Admittance Ticket and Bulletin, how to prepare for the ExamSoft mock exam, and what to know about using your laptop on exam day.

Sincerely,

Office of Admissions
The State Bar of California

The email address noreply@calbar.ca.gov is used solely for sending communications and is not monitored. If you need assistance or wish to get in touch, please contact us using the [Applicant Portal](#).



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