

FALL BAR EXAM FAQs

(updated 7/1/2020)

Q: Is there a chance that the October application period will end early?

A: No, The October application will be open through July 10th, 5:00 pm. The application is open to all eligible applicants and there are no seating restrictions because the exam will be administered remotely.

Q: I have an application for the Maryland exam because I thought they were going to give the UBE, but I have a job in D.C. Should I take the exam in D.C. or will D.C. and Maryland have reciprocity?

A: Maryland and D.C. are working on a reciprocity agreement and hope to have all the details ironed out before the D.C. application closes.

Q: I did not pass the February exam but I received a 148.4 on the MBE. May I transfer my MBE score and take the Essay portion only in October?

A: No. We are not offering the ESSAY only exam in October. All applicants are required to take the full non-UBE remote exam.

Q: I registered for the September 2020 exam. Do I have to register again for the October exam?

A: No. All applicants who registered for the September exam and received Applicant ID#s are automatically registered for the October exam.

Q: I want to get a UBE score, so I am also registered in New York. My job is in D.C. so I need to get admitted in D.C. Can I take both the UBE in New York and the remote exam in D.C. to make sure I get admitted in D.C.?

A: No. Pursuant to the NCBE conditions of use for the remote exam, we are not able to permit applicants to sit for the remote exam in October if they previously sat for one of the 2020 July – September bar exams.

Q: I am registered to take the exam in another jurisdiction, but I'm afraid they may cancel at the last minute. Is it okay to register for the D.C. exam?

A: Yes, you may register. However if you take the exam in the other jurisdiction you will not be able to take the exam in D.C. pursuant to the NCBE conditions of use for the remote exam.

Q: I have already registered in D.C. but I may decide that I do not want to take the exam in D.C. How do I get a refund?

A: You may apply for a refund through September 15, 2020, at 5:00 pm. After the deadline, refund requests will not be accepted.

Q: Will the exam materials be printable?

A: No the exam will be administered electronically via a program designed for the exam delivery. Applicants will have ample opportunity to explore the various features in the software well before the exam.

Q: Can you confirm if I will need a copy of my MPRE score, as this may take a while to get to me?

A: No, you do not need a copy of your MPRE score to complete the application. You will have the option to upload an unofficial copy of your MPRE results, or a copy of your request for the results from NCBE.

Q: I no longer wish to take the bar exam in D.C. because the October exam is remote. I want to wait until February 2021 to take the exam. Can I transfer my fees to the February exam?

A: Yes, fees are transferrable to the February and the July 2021 exams. You must make a request to transfer your fees by emailing: barexamwithdrawal@dcappeals.gov

Q: I graduated from a foreign law school and received an LLM at an ABA approved law school. May I sit for the October exam?

A: It depends on whether you have earned 26 qualifying credits through your LLM program at an ABA approved law school. You may send your transcripts and course descriptions for evaluation to: coa@dcappeals.gov.

Q: I graduated from a foreign law school and was already approved to sit for the New York Bar exam. May I sit for the D.C. exam with my certification from New York?

A: No. You must meet the D.C. requirements to be approved to sit for the bar exam in D.C.

Q: Does the character and fitness application have to be approved prior to signing up for the exam or does the application just need to be completed and submitted?

A: The character and fitness review is conducted following the release of the exam results. If you wish, you may upload a “preview” copy of the C&F application to your bar exam application account with us. Once you receive your results you may complete submission and payment of your C&F application with NCBE. NCBE will begin the background investigation after receiving your payment. Please note that it may take 2 – 3 months for your background investigation to be completed. The background investigation must be complete before your character and fitness review can be conducted.

Q: Do I need to submit my JD and bachelor transcripts, and driving records for the DC bar application?

A: These documents are not always needed. Please follow the instructions on the character and fitness application and provide only those documents that are requested. It is unnecessary to submit documents that are not requested. If the Committee on Admissions needs additional documents you will receive a specific request for their submission.

Q: Is there a form that I can send to my law school for the law school certification?

A: You may either use the Law school certificate located on our website:

https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/divisionspdfs/committee%20on%20admissions%20pdf/ABA_Law_School_Certification_Form.pdf, or submit a Declaration as indicated in the exam

instructions:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/divisionspdfs/committee%20on%20admissions%20pdf/Bar-Exam-Instructions-and-Information-October-2020.pdf> (“The Application Process”, #7.)

Q: When my classmate applied on May 18th she filled out a pre-screening form. I don't see where to fill out that form, where can I find it?

A: The pre-screening form is no longer needed and is not available for use. Please go directly to the application link to begin your application for the October exam.

Q: I am currently registered to the bar exam in another state, but am considering transferring to DC due to COVID-19 related concerns. I have a completed NCBE background check done in the other jurisdiction. Am I able to transfer that to DC and supplement where needed, or do I have to go through the entire NCBE process again?

A: It is possible to have the background investigation report provided to D.C. Please contact NCBE directly through your account with them regarding this process. There is an additional smaller fee involved.

Q: Why am I not able to sit for both the September NY bar exam and the October DC bar exam, since they are administered at different times and I want to be licensed in both jurisdictions?

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