

NCBE
Celebrating **90** years
1931-2021

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

NCBE National Conference
of Bar Examiners



CONTENTS

1

Letter from the
NCBE Board Chair:
Dedication and Innovation

2

Letter from the NCBE
President and CEO:
With Gratitude and Optimism

3

NCBE Mission, Vision,
and Core Values

4

Who We Are &
What We Do

5

COVID-19: Solutions
for Candidates

6

The Next Generation of the Bar
Exam: From Recommendations
to Reality

8

Diversity, Fairness, and
Inclusion Research: Breaking
New Ground

9

New MPRE Tools for Law
Schools and Candidates

9

Improving Access to
Information: Comprehensive
Guide to Bar Admission
Requirements

10

2021 by the Numbers

12

NCBE Exams

15

Jurisdiction Services

17

Candidate Services

18

Educational Events

20

Online Study Aids and
Study Resources

21

Research and Publications

22





NCBE Board of Trustees
and Senior Staff (back cover)

NCBE[®]

National Conference
of Bar Examiners

302 South Bedford Street
Madison, WI 53703

ncbex.org
thebarexaminer.org
nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org
reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide

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Dedication and Innovation



Suzanne K. Richards
2021–2022 NCBE Board Chair

What a year 2021 was. The challenges of COVID-19 lingered, but admitting authorities remained committed to providing safe and secure exam administrations, finding creative solutions to ensure that applicants had the opportunity to become licensed attorneys. Ongoing self-examination by the legal community about the need to bring more diversity to the profession generated new commitments and innovative approaches. NCBE is proud to be a member of a bar admissions community that rose to 2021's challenges with such resourcefulness and dedication, and it is proud to serve that community as a leader in promoting best practices for admission to the legal profession.

The legal profession is vital to a society based upon the rule of law. Lawyers help resolve the problems and troubles of individual clients, but they also, importantly, serve as first responders when attacks are made upon the principles that are the bedrock of our system of government. A profession called upon to face so many different needs must ensure that it admits individuals who are competent, ethical, and represent a wide range of backgrounds.

NCBE is devoted to assisting jurisdictions admit individuals to the profession who are able to demonstrate each of those qualities. Indeed, the activities featured in this *Year in Review* are a testament to the wide-ranging endeavors undertaken by NCBE in support of a competent, ethical, and diverse profession. NCBE has engaged in projects to assist candidates with the admissions process by providing easier access to registration information and through new, improved, and low-cost study aids. It has continued to revamp the investigative services offered to jurisdictions and, in collaboration with jurisdictions, has initiated a project to update the character application, seeking to make it both more effective and more sensitive to an increasingly diverse group of applicants. NCBE has also expanded its diversity initiatives and, under the leadership of its new Director of Diversity, Fairness, and Inclusion Research, is expanding its capability to assist jurisdictions in this critical area.

2021 also saw heightened discussion and debate about the future of the legal profession and bar admissions. If, at times, it may have seemed a rather contentious dialogue, perhaps that was just a sign of how much everyone cares about this important subject—even a reason to celebrate, because a multitude of voices means a multiplicity of innovative ideas and imaginative suggestions. NCBE is poised to continue its leadership in this area as well, as it moves into the development stage for the next generation of the bar exam, bringing the new exam ever closer to reality. The conclusion of this multiyear endeavor will help ensure that NCBE continues to provide jurisdictions with a high-quality licensing exam that ensures the protection of the public for years to come.

In that spirit, let's hope that 2022 is a springboard for a rejuvenated and reshaped profession in the years ahead. The bar admissions community is a varied group, with each stakeholder dedicated to improving the process and in turn improving the profession. NCBE is committed to working with each and every member of the bar admissions community in that effort. Indeed, we hope that we have demonstrated our commitment in that regard with our many undertakings in 2021. Most especially, we want to continue to be a trusted ally and partner of jurisdictions. We cherish the collaborative efforts undertaken individually with jurisdictions and collectively through the Council of Bar Admission Administrators. Together we met the challenges of 2021. And together we can meet the changes and challenges of the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne K. Richards". The script is fluid and cursive.

Suzanne K. Richards
2021–2022 NCBE Board Chair

With Gratitude and Optimism



Judith A. Gundersen
NCBE President and CEO

As I reflect on all the events of 2021, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for colleagues here at NCBE and in jurisdiction admission offices. Thanks to their dedication, the work of admitting lawyers went on this year, even as COVID-19 continued to upend the regular rhythm of admissions and the bar exam. Our staff at NCBE worked tirelessly to serve jurisdictions and candidates, continuing the adaptations they began in the spring of 2020 and meeting new challenges as they arose.

Full-length remote bar exams using NCBE materials were administered for the first time in February and July in many jurisdictions, while other jurisdictions administered their exams in person. This would not have been possible without exhaustive planning and care by bar admission staff to ensure safety and fairness for all candidates. NCBE was glad to support that work by facilitating education and discussion among jurisdictions about administration issues, including those related to in-person and remote testing.

While 2021 saw progress and many bright spots in the pandemic, the country remained divided over vaccine efficacy and mask mandates. But through it all, the admissions community remained united in its efforts to keep examinees and staff safe and to provide opportunities for entry to the profession for tens of thousands of candidates.

As this *Year in Review* indicates, in 2021 NCBE made important financial and research-related commitments to enhancing diversity in the profession—studying bar exam performance and fairness and providing data and support to law schools. In addition, NCBE's Diversity and Inclusion and Character and Fitness Committees are working together to study the character and fitness processes that are commonly used in jurisdictions. While NCBE does not make policy decisions or admission decisions related to character and fitness, we are in a position to bring together representatives from many jurisdictions to discuss the impact of the process with an eye on public protection and candidate fairness.

2021 marked NCBE's 90th anniversary as an organization. I am optimistic about what lies ahead for 2022 and beyond. We have already committed significant resources, including the time of many smart, hardworking, and talented staff members and volunteers, to developing the next generation of the bar exam, ensuring that fairness to all examinees is a cornerstone of the exam's design and delivery. As 2022 gets under way, we are preparing to publish the content scope outlines for the Foundational Concepts and Principles and the Foundational Skills to be tested on the new exam—that, itself, is no small feat. A word here to the amazing volunteers who devoted hundreds of hours to this project: your importance to this work cannot be overstated.

Our volunteers—those helping to develop the new bar exam, as well as members of our drafting and policy committees, external reviewers, and our Board of Trustees—have been crucial to keeping the admissions process going over the past year and will ensure that we continue supporting the work of legal licensure for years to come. To all our volunteers, staff, and jurisdiction colleagues: thank you. Your collective commitment to helping build a competent, ethical, and diverse profession is inspiring.

Looking back with gratitude—and forward with optimism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith".

Judith A. Gundersen
NCBE President and CEO



The National Conference of Bar Examiners, founded in 1931, is a not-for-profit corporation that develops licensing tests for bar admission and provides character and fitness investigation services. NCBE also provides testing, research, and educational services to jurisdictions; provides services to bar applicants on behalf of jurisdictions; and acts as a national clearinghouse for information about the bar examination and bar admissions.

Our mission

NCBE promotes fairness, integrity, and best practices in admission to the legal profession for the benefit and protection of the public. We serve admission authorities, courts, the legal education community, and candidates by providing high-quality

- assessment products, services, and research;
- character investigations; and
- informational and educational resources and programs.

Our vision

A competent, ethical, and diverse legal profession

Our core values

NCBE is committed to

- excellence
- fairness
- integrity
- service

NCBE celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2021. It was founded as a nonprofit corporation in September 1931, with the aim of increasing the efficiency of state bar admission boards and for the betterment of licensing processes across the US jurisdictions.



WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



Our Partnership with Jurisdictions

We develop and produce the licensing and professional responsibility tests used by most US jurisdictions for admission to the bar. We help jurisdiction bar admissions processes run well from start to finish by providing support and training to jurisdiction administrators and graders, providing scoring and research services after each exam and on an as-needed basis, and conducting character and fitness investigations on behalf of jurisdictions. We provide financial and professional support to the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA).



Our Support for Applicants

We help streamline the process of applying for bar admission by providing score services and other admission-related services to applicants on behalf of jurisdictions and providing NCBE Accounts that offer applicants a one-stop secure web portal. We offer study aids with authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions. Our website, www.ncbex.org, is a comprehensive resource for bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions and for information about our tests, character and fitness investigation services, score services, and study aids.



Our Collaboration with the Bar Admissions Community

We sponsor a wide range of educational events for jurisdiction bar examiners, bar admission administrators, and jurisdictions' highest courts, and we conduct ongoing research relevant to bar admissions testing, as well as providing support for graduate student research in this area. Our quarterly publication, the *Bar Examiner*, provides comprehensive, authoritative information about topics of interest to the bar admissions community.



Our Commitment to the Legal Education Community

We sponsor educational events for legal educators and publish news and information of interest to the legal education community. We work with organizations that support students preparing for law school and the bar, advancing our shared goals and building foundations for the future of the legal profession.

COVID-19 SOLUTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

As the COVID-19 pandemic entered its second year, NCBE continued to respond with solutions that helped ensure candidates in all jurisdictions had the opportunity to be licensed to practice law.

February and July saw the first-ever full-length remote bar exams administered in a majority of jurisdictions. (The bar exam returned to paper-based, in-person testing for the February 2022 administration in all jurisdictions using NCBE materials.)

In August, close to 1,000 candidates who were unable to travel to the United States due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions were able to take the MPRE internationally in one of 21 countries around the world. An additional international MPRE testing opportunity was made available for overseas candidates in March 2022.

2021 BAR EXAMS: REMOTE & IN PERSON



Remote

15,094 examinees in the **33** jurisdictions administering the February remote exams

37,387 examinees in the **29** jurisdictions administering the July remote exams



In Person

1,665 examinees in the **18** jurisdictions administering the February in-person exams

8,485 examinees in the **24** jurisdictions administering the July in-person exams

The Next Generation of the Bar Exam

FROM RECOMMENDATIONS TO REALITY

Following the Board of Trustees' approval in January of the Testing Task Force's recommendations for the next generation of the bar exam, NCBE moved quickly to establish an Implementation Steering Committee to guide and oversee the substantial work required to make the new exam a reality.



In June, NCBE announced the formation of the Content Scope Committee, composed of 21 members from a variety of backgrounds, including practitioners, legal educators, deans, and bar examiners. The committee, which was tasked with determining the breadth and depth of the content on the new exam, worked together through the summer and fall to develop detailed recommendations about the topics for the eight Foundational Concepts & Principles and the seven Foundational Skills that the Testing Task Force recommended be measured on the new exam. A working draft of the exam content specifications will be published in spring 2022 and refined as test question development progresses and pilot testing is conducted. Final content specifications will be published well in advance of the first administration of the new exam.

In addition to the work of the Content Scope Committee, NCBE's test development staff began working in the fall with teams of question drafters to develop and evaluate prototypes of new item types and item sets; pilot testing to determine how the new items perform will begin in 2022. NCBE's psychometric staff are also evaluating scoring and grading methods for the new exam to ensure overall reliability and validity.



The new exam will be delivered on computers, and NCBE has done substantial work gathering information about options for computer-based testing. One possibility is delivering the exam on examinees' laptops. The alternative is administering the exam at testing centers. NCBE will continue to engage in discussion with the jurisdictions as we complete our evaluation in 2022 of options for administering the new exam.



Following a call for applications from administrators and bar examiners in November, NCBE formed the Jurisdiction Advisory Committee, which will provide invaluable input to the Implementation Steering Committee on the many policy issues involved in the transition to the new exam. The Jurisdiction Advisory Committee will also help NCBE gather feedback and information to ensure that the views of all jurisdictions are considered.



Visit the Next Generation of the Bar Exam website at nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org for more information.



Diversity, Fairness, and Inclusion Research

BREAKING NEW GROUND

2021 saw the launch of a multiyear, multiphase pilot project examining the impact of full-time work on bar passage success. The project, which builds on research by AccessLex and other legal advocacy organizations, is designed to identify concrete actions that law schools, bar associations, and grant makers can take to support bar passage by examinees from traditionally underrepresented groups. Additional information on this project is expected in 2023.

In 2021, NCBE also collected data and performed research to support our monitoring of exam fairness. For candidates who took the February 2021 bar examination remotely, NCBE examined responses to a number of questions related to access (e.g., computer use in law school, computer availability for testing) by different demographic variables (e.g., race/ethnicity, identifying with a disability).

Throughout the year, NCBE also continued its partnership with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) to help support increased diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. For over 50 years, CLEO has been working to expand opportunities for over 28,000 minority and low-income students to attend law school. CLEO currently supports students attending 137 ABA-accredited law schools. A multiyear partnership between CLEO and NCBE has expanded support for students as they prepare to take the bar exam; in 2021, CLEO staff, consultants, and volunteers offered bar passage support to over 250 students through educational programming, mentorship opportunities, and/or stipends.

Visit the NCBE Diversity, Fairness, and Inclusion web page at ncbex.org/about/diversity-fairness-and-inclusion for more information.

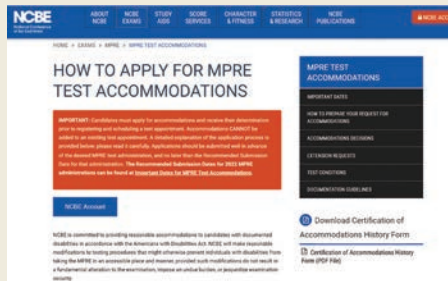


NEW MPRE TOOLS

for Law Schools and Candidates

MPRE Data Sharing

Following the successful launch of a pilot program in 2020, in 2021 NCBE opened its MPRE data sharing program to all law schools. Participating schools receive national aggregate data and law school-specific aggregate data based on the cohort of examinees who have indicated that they are students or alumni of each school. Reports, which are provided to registered schools about eight weeks after each of the three MPRE administrations, anonymously show law school-specific results grouped by score earned; participating schools also receive the national aggregate data report for comparison. 140 law schools participated in the program in 2021. In 2022, NCBE will launch a pilot program to share candidate-level MPRE data with selected law schools.



MPRE Test Accommodations Online Application

In November, NCBE launched a new online MPRE test accommodations application that allows candidates to apply for test accommodations through their NCBE Accounts. The new online application simplifies the process for candidates, integrating all questions and uploads into a single submission.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

An online version of the *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide, was launched in January and quickly became an important resource for candidates and jurisdictions, with over 139,000 visits in 2021. The online Guide is updated throughout the year for the most up-to-date information about bar admissions in all 56 US jurisdictions.



In 2021, the “Comp Guide” website was visited 139,000 times.

2021

BY THE NUMBERS



40,502 UBE scores earned

7,764 UBE scores transferred



41,524

Score services requests processed on behalf of jurisdictions and candidates



156,613

Active NCBE Accounts



14,731

Character and fitness investigations conducted on behalf of 28 jurisdictions



155

Meetings and educational events (in person and remote) held



111 NCBE staff members

12 Board of Trustees members from 11 jurisdictions

64 Drafting committee members from 26 jurisdictions, including faculty members from 34 law schools

90 Policy committee members from 45 jurisdictions



50,054
Support inquiries received

23,634 online

26,420 via phone call



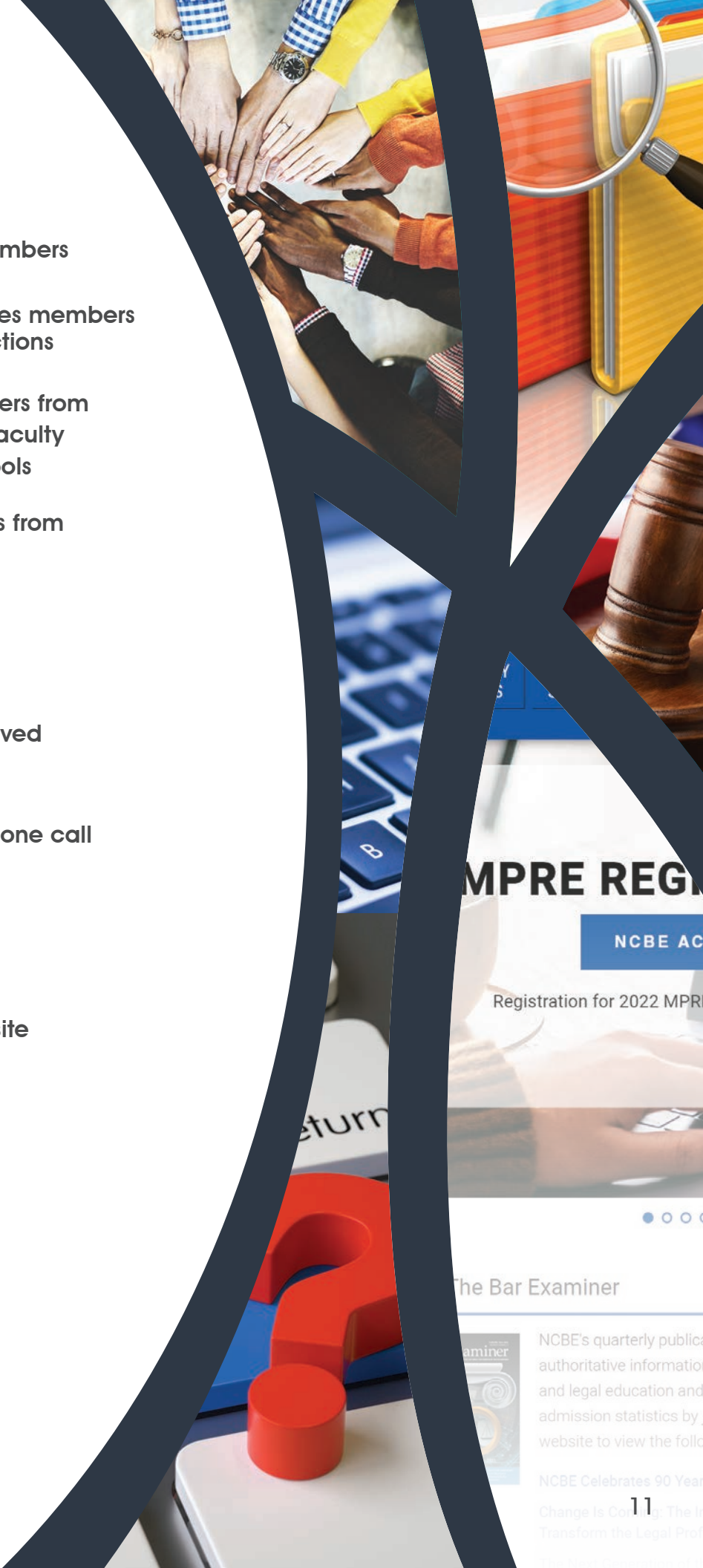
2.91 million
visits to the NCBE website at ncbex.org

103,000

Visits to the *Bar Examiner* website at thebarexaminer.org

139,000

Visits to the *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admissions* website at reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide



MPRE REGI

NCBE AC

Registration for 2022 MPR

The Bar Examiner



NCBE's quarterly publica authoritative information and legal education and admission statistics by website to view the follo

NCBE Celebrates 90 Year

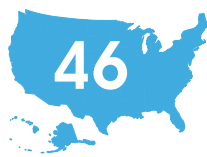
Change Is Con 11: The In Transform the Legal Prof

The Next Commission

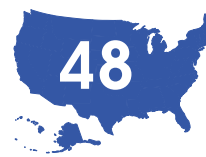
NCBE Exams



54 jurisdictions used the MBE in 2021.



46 jurisdictions used the MEE in 2021.



48 jurisdictions used the MPT in 2021.



62,631
MBE
examinees
in 2021



40,759
MEE
examinees
in 2021

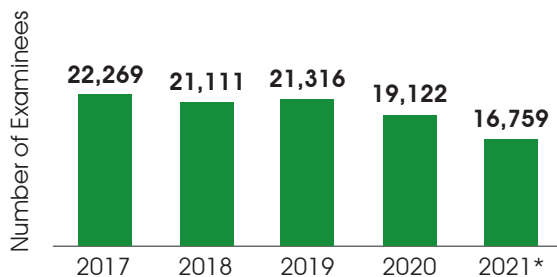


43,042
MPT
examinees
in 2021

MBE SNAPSHOT

February 2021 MBE Examinees: **16,759**

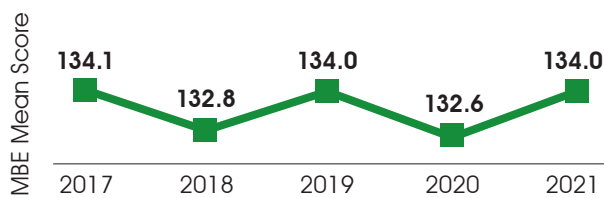
Number of February MBE Examinees 2017–2021



*161 additional examinees took a makeup multiple-choice exam in Texas in March 2021 for local admission only as a result of severe weather that prevented them from taking the February 2021 MBE.

February 2021 MBE Mean Score: **134.0**

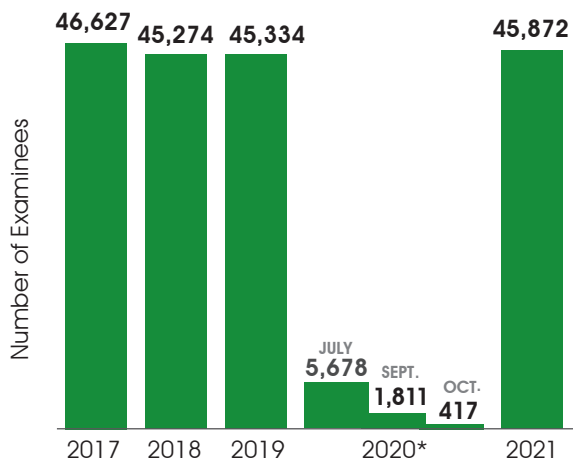
February MBE Mean Score 2017–2021



MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/23/22.

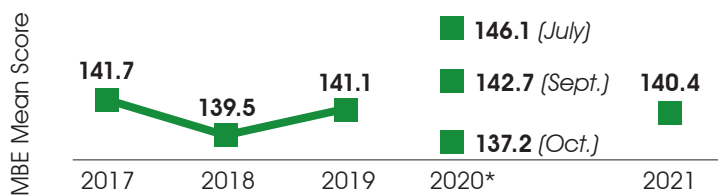
July 2021 MBE Examinees: **45,872**

Number of July MBE Examinees 2017–2021



July 2021 MBE Mean Score: **140.4**

July MBE Mean Score 2017–2021



MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 200. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/23/22.

MBE STANDARD DEVIATIONS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
February	14.7	16.0	15.2	15.6	16.5
July	16.8	16.6	16.9	15.8 (July), 15.0 (Sept.), 17.8 (Oct.)	17.8

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the July 2020 MBE was administered on three separate dates: July 29, September 10, and October 1. The results shown are for in-person examinees only; approximately 29,000 additional examinees sat for a remotely administered exam using NCBE materials in October 2020. Comparability to other years' results may be limited due to the lower examinee count.

The Multistate Bar Examination, Multistate Essay Examination, and Multistate Performance Test are administered by user jurisdictions as part of the bar examination in February and July each year.

Most jurisdictions use one or more of the bar exam components developed by NCBE:

The **Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)** is a 200-question multiple-choice exam that assesses the extent to which an examinee can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns.

The **Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)** is a six-question essay exam that tests an examinee’s ability to identify legal issues, separate relevant from irrelevant material, analyze the issues, and demonstrate an understanding of fundamental legal principles.

The **Multistate Performance Test (MPT)** consists of two performance tasks that test an examinee’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each item evaluates an examinee’s ability to complete a task that a newly licensed lawyer should be able to accomplish.

A majority of jurisdictions have adopted the **Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)**, which consists of the MBE, the MEE, and the MPT, and results in a portable score that can be transferred to other UBE jurisdictions.

Did you know?

There are 56 US jurisdictions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

UBE SNAPSHOT

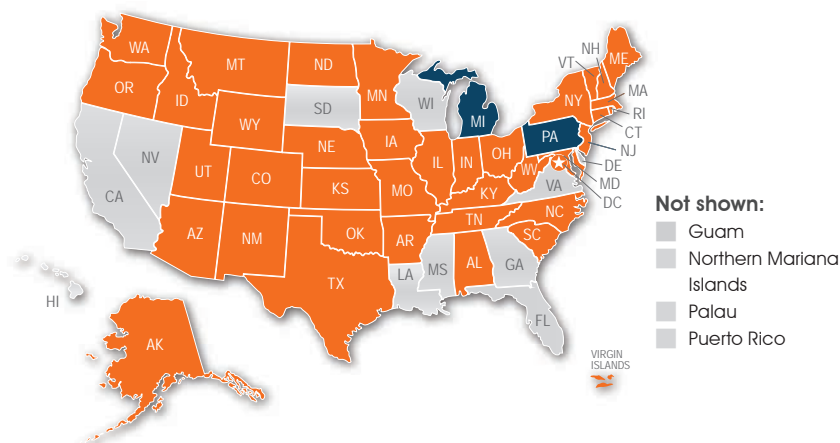
The Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) results in a portable score that can be used to apply for admission in other UBE jurisdictions.



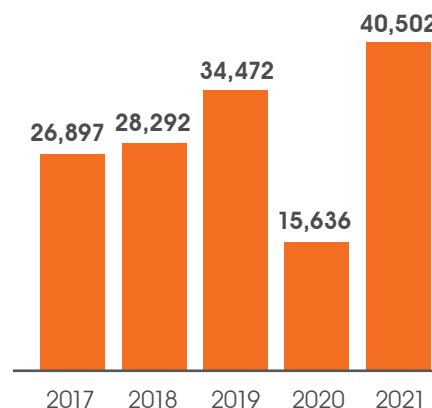
Number of jurisdictions that have adopted the UBE

39 jurisdictions administered the UBE in 2021.

2 additional jurisdictions have adopted the UBE (administration dates: Pennsylvania, July 2022, and Michigan, anticipated February 2023, pending legislative action).



Number of UBE Scores Earned by Year 2017–2021



Total UBE Scores Earned and Transferred as of January 1, 2022



NCBE Exams (continued)

MPRE[®]

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

MPRE SNAPSHOT

54 jurisdictions used the MPRE in 2021.

56,497 MPRE examinees in 2021

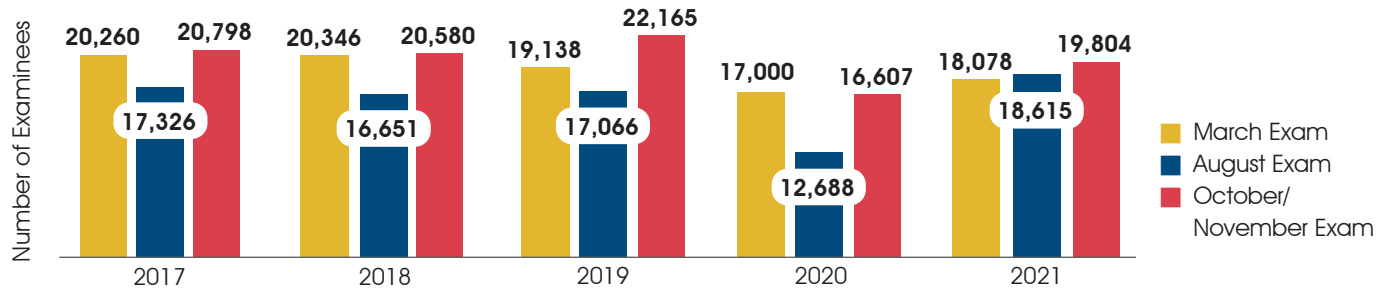
The **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** is administered by NCBE through its test contractor three times per year.

Most jurisdictions require the MPRE, a 60-question multiple-choice exam that measures candidates' knowledge and understanding of established standards related to the professional conduct of lawyers.

2021 MPRE examinees by administration:



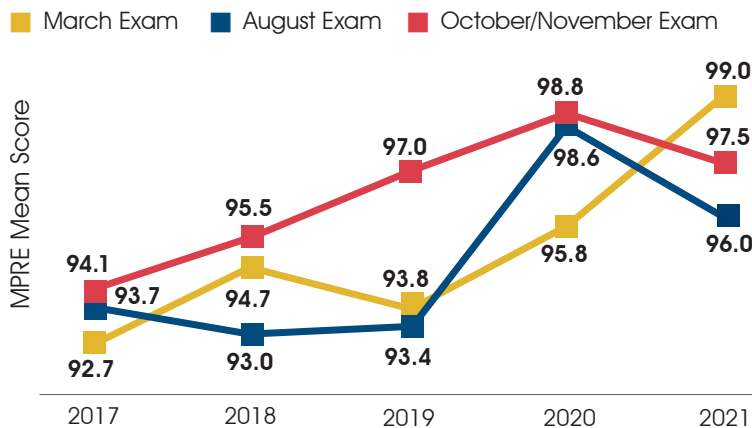
Number of MPRE Examinees 2017–2021



2021 MPRE mean score by administration:



MPRE Mean Scores 2017–2021



MPRE STANDARD DEVIATIONS

	March	August	Oct./Nov.
2017	17.1	18.0	17.4
2018	17.9	17.8	18.2
2019	17.9	17.5	18.3
2020	18.5	18.3	18.8
2021	18.7	19.1	19.3

MPRE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 50 to 150. The values reflect valid scores available electronically as of 2/23/22.

Comparability of results may be limited due to fluctuations in examinee counts.

JURISDICTION Services

Character and Fitness Investigations

14,731 
INVESTIGATIONS

NCBE conducted **14,731** character and fitness investigations on behalf of **28** jurisdictions in 2021.

28 
JURISDICTIONS

25 
JURISDICTIONS

25 jurisdictions used our online Character Report Application in 2021.

52 
JURISDICTIONS

52 jurisdictions used our Online Verification process in 2021.

42 
JURISDICTIONS

42 jurisdictions participated in our Cross-Reference service in 2021.

Did you know?

In addition to providing character and fitness investigation services, NCBE offers the following services for jurisdictions:

- an **online Character Report Application** (jurisdictions may use the online application even if they do not use NCBE's investigation services)
- an **Online Verification process** that allows jurisdictions and law schools to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries
- a **Cross-Reference service** that allows jurisdictions to determine whether applicants have previously submitted any type of application to another jurisdiction

Decisions about the character and fitness of applicants to practice law are made by jurisdiction courts, boards of bar admission, or character and fitness boards, not by NCBE.

In 2021, the NCBE Character and Fitness Investigations and Diversity and Inclusion Committees began evaluating the NCBE character report application to ensure that the information collected is necessary and relevant to the assessment of applicant character for the purpose of bar admission, while promoting a fair and equitable process for a diverse applicant population.

JURISDICTION Services (continued)

Research Services

NCBE performs statistical analysis, equating, and scoring for each MBE and MPRE administration, and offers score scaling services to scale the written components of the bar exam to the MBE.

NCBE also prepares data forensics reports for cases in which examinees are suspected of cheating and conducts additional testing-related research in partnership with jurisdictions. These services are available to all jurisdictions at no charge.

Scoring, Scaling, and Statistical Analysis



160,234
exams

In 2021, NCBE performed scoring, equating/scaling, and other statistical analyses for **160,234** exams from 54 jurisdictions.

40 jurisdictions used our **score scaling services** in 2021.

Research and Cheating Analysis



In 2021, NCBE conducted research (including analyses related to suspected cheating) for 25 jurisdictions.

CANDIDATE Services

NCBE provides services to candidates throughout the bar admissions process. NCBE Accounts provide candidates with a one-stop secure web portal to submit character and fitness applications, request test accommodations and register for the MPRE, and request score services after taking the MPRE or the bar exam.

These score transfer and reporting services are available for examinees who wish to have their UBE, MBE, or MPRE scores transferred to other jurisdictions or who wish to receive a copy of their scores. Candidates with questions about NCBE's exams and services can contact NCBE's Candidate Services staff by phone or online for additional assistance.



There were **156,613** active NCBE Accounts in 2021.



NCBE responded to **50,054** support inquiries in 2021.

Score Services in 2021

MPRE

Multistate Professional
Responsibility Examination

23,398

23,398 **MPRE scores** transferred to jurisdictions

7,113

7,113 **MPRE score transcripts** released to examinees

UBE

Uniform Bar Examination

7,764

7,764 **UBE score transcripts** transferred to jurisdictions

2,185

2,185 **UBE score transcripts** released to examinees

MBE

Multistate Bar Examination

588

588 **MBE scores** transferred to jurisdictions

476

476 **MBE scores** released to examinees

EDUCATIONAL Events

Featured Event



Annual Bar Admissions Conference

NCBE held its 2021 Annual Bar Admissions Conference virtually on April 15 and 16. Fifty-one jurisdictions were represented by the 411 attendees, which included 121 first-time attendees and 37 jurisdiction high-court justices. The conference included plenary sessions on the future of the legal profession and obstacles to diversifying the bar; other sessions addressed social media and the First Amendment, wellness in the COVID-19 era, diversity and legal employment trends, the state of legal education, and more. Two sessions provided updates and information about the next generation of the bar exam.

Webinars



NCBE's Testing Task Force Presents Preliminary Recommendations for the Next Generation of the Bar Exam. A pair of webinars in January presented the recommendations of the Testing Task Force to administrators from UBE and non-UBE jurisdictions.



Testing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Webinars throughout the year provided information and support for jurisdictions on administering and grading remote exams and on planning for the February 2022 exam.



Nonstandard Materials: The More You Know... In October, NCBE offered this educational webinar about how to order nonstandard materials from NCBE for candidates with test accommodations. Decisions about the accommodations provided to examinees are made by individual jurisdictions, not by NCBE.



Online NCBE Investigations Services: From Beginning to End. In December, this educational webinar provided an overview of NCBE's online services for jurisdictions, including NCBE Account number validation, character report applications, inquiry letters, investigations reports, and application program interfaces (APIs).



Administering the Next Generation of the Bar Exam. This December webinar provided an opportunity for jurisdiction administrators to learn more about the feasibility of using various computer-based delivery modes for the next generation bar exam.



Committee & Board Meetings

NCBE's Board of Trustees and policy committees meet regularly to evaluate current policies and practices and to recommend changes and improvements. Our drafting committees meet two to three times during the year to write and review exam questions.

5

Board of Trustees meetings

44

Policy Committee meetings

27

Drafting Committee meetings

NextGen
Bar Exam of the Future

Committee Meetings

NCBE's Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) met throughout 2021 to address all aspects of implementation for the next generation of the bar exam and ensure a smooth transition for candidates, jurisdictions, and law schools. The Content Scope Committee, appointed by the ISC in June to develop test content specifications for the new exam, completed its work in a series of meetings that concluded in December 2021.

36

meetings on the next generation of the bar exam

Additional Events in 2021



Grading Workshops

After every administration of the bar exam, NCBE sponsors a hands-on Grading Workshop for jurisdiction graders. Individual workshop sessions, led by members of NCBE's MEE and MPT Drafting Committees, are held for each question. Both the February and July Grading Workshops were held virtually in 2021.

February: 524 participants from 40 jurisdictions

July: 595 participants from 41 jurisdictions



New Bar Admission Administrators Mini-Seminar

On May 19 and 20, 2021, NCBE hosted a virtual mini-seminar for new bar admission administrators. The goal of the mini-seminar was to familiarize new bar

admission administrators with the resources and services offered by NCBE (13 administrators from 10 jurisdictions).



NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting of NCBE and the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA) was held virtually in August, with CBAA committee meetings and plenary sessions on implementing the next generation of the bar exam, bar admission-related medical

issues, and exam misconduct on remotely administered exams (141 attendees from 45 jurisdictions).



CBAA Fall Meeting

The Council of Bar Admission Administrators held its Fall Meeting in Boston in November. In addition to CBAA committee meetings, plenaries were held on issues related to COVID-19 and bar exam administration;

the CBAA's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; and current and emerging character and fitness issues (78 participants from 37 jurisdictions).

ONLINE STUDY AIDS and Study Resources

NCBE provides authentic bar exam and MPRE practice questions on BarNow, its mobile-friendly, interactive online study aids platform. In 2021, NCBE introduced two new study aids, Simulated MPRE 2 and the MBE Complete Practice Exam—NCBE’s first full-length MBE study aid. With the addition of the new study aids, candidates using BarNow have access to more than 800 MBE questions, more than 300 MEE and MPT questions, and 120 MPRE questions.

NCBE also introduced three new BarNow value packs in 2021 to help candidates save money as they prepare to take the bar exam and the MPRE. Throughout the year, NCBE continued to offer a 50% discount on the Everything Value Pack to support candidates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May, NCBE launched Bar Exam Study Basics, a free video offering evidence-based advice about helpful study habits to help candidates prepare for the bar exam.

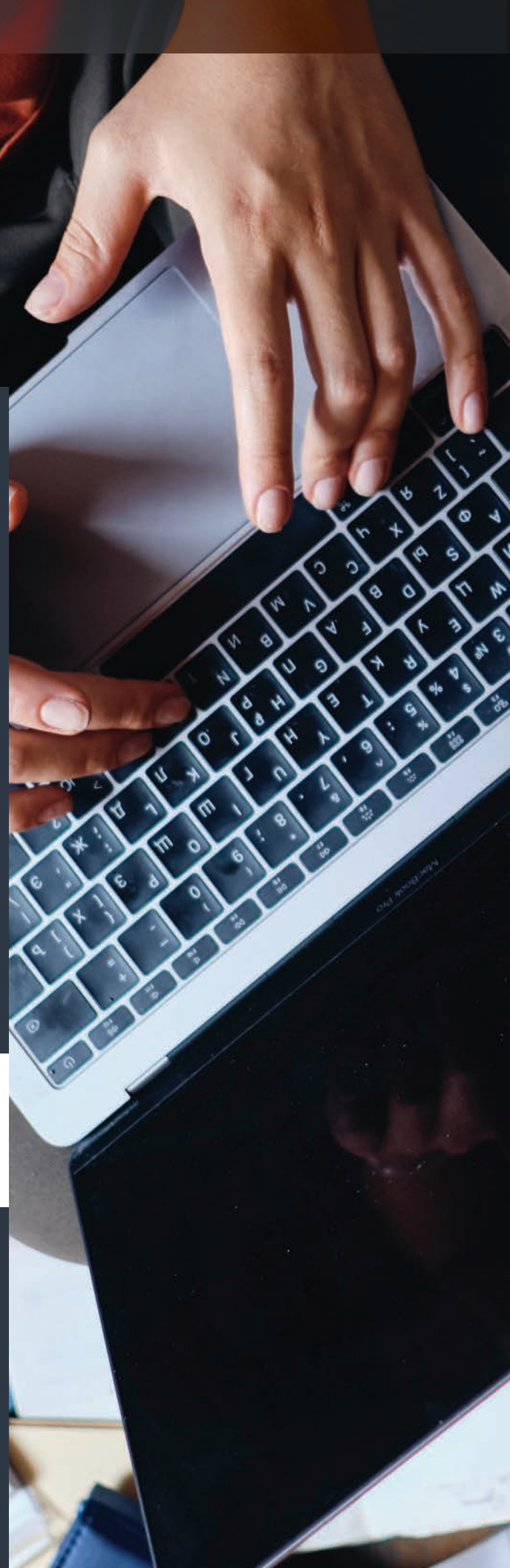
In 2022, NCBE plans to continue adding to its study aid offerings with free trial courses and more.

5,164 bar exam study aids were sold in 2021.

2,605 MPRE study aids were sold in 2021.



Visit the NCBE Study Aids web page at ncbex.org/study-aids to learn more.



RESEARCH and Publications



Assessment & Research Staff Publication

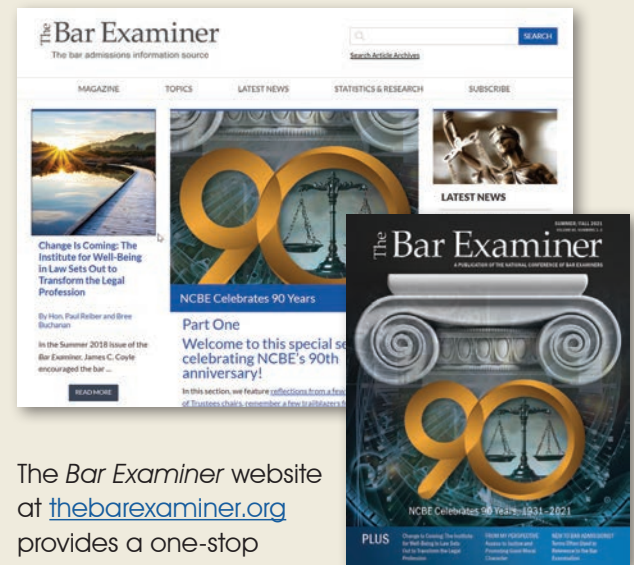
- Jiang, Z., **Raymond, M.**, DiStefano, C., Shi, D., Liu, R. & Sun, J. A Monte Carlo Study of Confidence Interval Methods for Generalizability Coefficient, in *Educational and Psychological Measurement*.



Assessment & Research Staff Presentations

- Gorney, K. & **Mroch, A.** Rasch Model Sample Size Requirements Under an IRT Pre-Equating Design, poster presented at the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society (virtual).
- Kane, J.**, Steele, T. & Rubright, J. Fair and Equitable Assessments for All, presented at the Association of Test Publishers 2021 conference (virtual).
- Albanese, M., Early, K. & Kraus, K.** Stakeholder Perspectives on Validating Licensure Examinations, invited validity session at the National Council on Measurement in Education 2021 conference (virtual).
- Kane, J.** Assessing Non-Cognitive Competencies in Licensure: Lessons from Neighboring Fields, presented at the National Council on Measurement in Education 2021 conference (virtual).
- Kane, J.** Non-Cognitive Competencies in Credentialing, invited coffee chat at the National Council on Measurement in Education 2021 conference (virtual).
- Chen, J.**, Lee, W.C., **Connally, M. & Albanese, M.** An Examination of NCDIF Index for Detecting Item Parameter Drift (IPD), electronic board presentation at the National Council on Measurement in Education 2021 conference (virtual).
- Kane, J.**, Steele, T. & Rubright, J. Fair and Equitable Assessments for All, presented at the European Association of Test Publishers 2021 conference (virtual).

The Bar Examiner Magazine and Website



The *Bar Examiner* website at thebarexaminer.org

provides a one-stop resource for news and in-depth articles relating to all aspects of the bar admissions process. The *Bar Examiner* is also published as a quarterly magazine mailed to courts, members of the legal academy, bar admission administrators, and members of bar examining boards and character committees.

Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements

The *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, published in collaboration with the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, provides information on bar admission requirements in all US jurisdictions, including a directory of jurisdiction bar admission agencies.

The online Guide (reports.ncbex.org/comp-guide) is updated throughout the year; in addition, a print version is published annually and is available for purchase at the NCBE Study Aids Store (store.ncbex.org).

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