



Understanding the Uniform Bar Examination

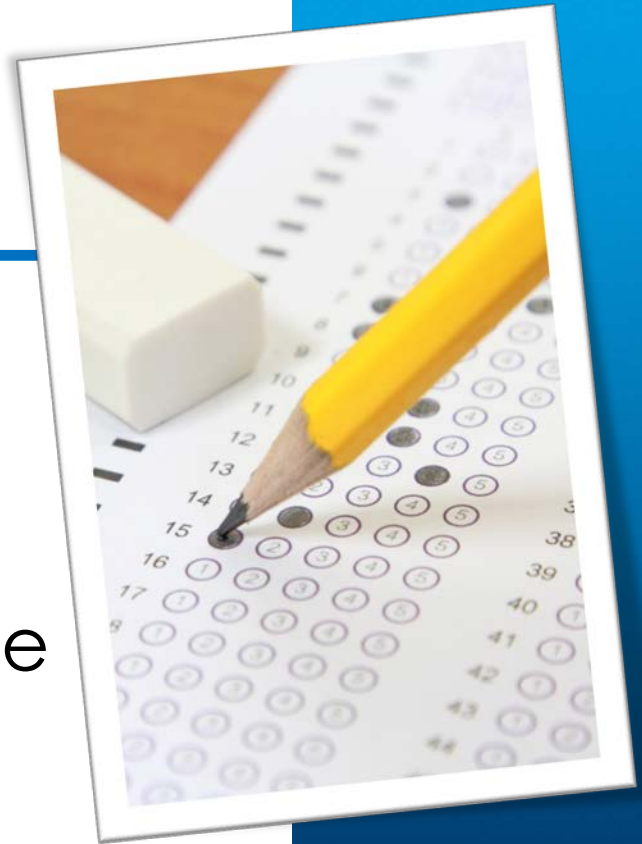
(Adapted from a Presentation, July 2017)



National Conference of Bar Examiners

What is the UBE?

- It is a uniformly administered, graded, and scored bar examination that results in a portable score, not a portable status.
- Applicants who take the UBE may transfer their scores to seek admission in other UBE jurisdictions within a certain amount of time after the scores were earned.



Purpose of the UBE

The UBE tests knowledge of general principles of law, legal analysis and reasoning, factual analysis, and communication skills to determine readiness to enter legal practice in any jurisdiction.



UBE Test Components

Multistate Performance Test (MPT)

Two 90-minute items (3 hours)

Content: a simulated case file presented in a realistic setting and calling for the test candidate to demonstrate fundamental lawyering skills regardless of the area of law in which the task arises

Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)

A common set of six 30-minute essays (3 hours)

Subjects: the 7 MBE topics plus Business Associations, Conflict of Laws, Family Law, UCC Art. 9 (Secured Transactions), and Trusts & Estates

Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)

200-question, multiple-choice exam (6 hours)

Subjects: Contracts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts, and Civil Procedure

Test Development Process

- NCBE's drafting committees are composed of professors from 30+ law schools and lawyers and judges from around the country who are experts in the subjects.
- Committees are staffed by NCBE test editors who are also lawyers.
- External professors and practitioners review MBE questions for validity and fairness.
- All questions are pretested before use.
- Jurisdictions review MEE and MPT before use.

Test Development Process

For more details, read articles published in the *Bar Examiner* describing NCBE's test development process for the following exams:

- [MEE and MPT \(June 2015 edition\)](#)
- [MBE \(September 2015 edition\)](#)



UBE Subjects Tested

For the scope of coverage of subjects tested, see these outlines on the NCBE website:

- [MBE Subject Matter Outline](#)
- [MEE Subject Matter Outline](#)
- [MPT Skills Tested](#)

NCBE Free Study Aids

Free [study aids](#) available on the NCBE website to help prepare for exams include

- recent [MEE questions](#)
- previously administered [MEE questions and model analyses](#)
- summaries of [recent MPTs](#)
- previously administered [MPTs and Point Sheets](#)
- sample [MBE questions](#)

NCBE Study Aids Online Store

Study aids available for purchase at the [NCBE Study Aids Store](#) include

- MBE Online Practice Exams (OPEs);
- MBE study aid by subject area;
- MEE questions and model analyses from the past five years; and
- MPT questions and Point Sheets from the past five years.

UBE Test Day Schedules



Tuesday Sessions

- MEE (6 essays, 3 hours)
- MPT (2 items, 3 hours)

Wednesday Sessions

- MBE (100 questions, 3 hours)
- MBE (100 questions, 3 hours)

Students Benefit from UBE

- increases consistency in subjects tested on the bar exam across jurisdictions
- maximizes job opportunities—UBE scores that are failing in the testing jurisdiction are transferable to UBE jurisdictions that have a lower passing score requirement
- reduces actual costs and opportunity costs of preparing for and taking the bar exam in multiple jurisdictions

Profession Benefits from UBE

- acknowledges a shared core of legal knowledge and lawyering skills
- assures a high-quality, uniform system of assessment of minimum competence
- recognizes the reality of multi-jurisdictional or cross-border practice



NCBE's Role in the UBE

- develops the MEE, MPT, and MBE
- scores the MBE
- calculates scaled written scores (MEE and MPT) for jurisdictions
- serves as the central repository for UBE scores and performs all UBE score transfers
- serves as coordinating body for UBE administrative policies agreed upon by the jurisdictions

Role of UBE Jurisdictions

- establish their requirements for admission
- set their passing scores
- administer the UBE and grade the MEE and MPT
- set their maximum age for transferred UBE scores
- make character and fitness decisions
- make testing accommodations decisions
- administer a separate jurisdiction-specific law component if they deem necessary

Jurisdiction-specific Law

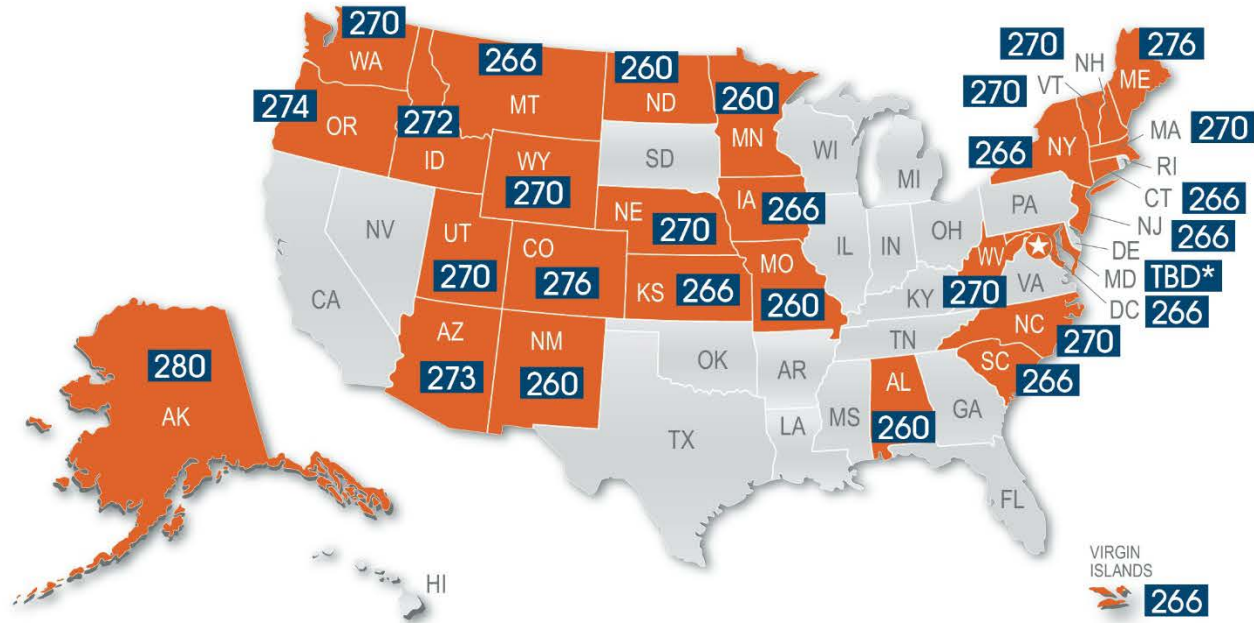
- UBE jurisdictions may require completion of a course, test, or some combination of the two that is separate from the UBE.
- Completion may be required before admission or within a prescribed period after admission.
- If required, jurisdiction-specific components typically must be completed by all applicants whether they are testing locally or transferring in UBE scores.

Admission by Transferred Score

To transfer UBE scores to seek admission in another UBE jurisdiction, applicants must:

- submit the prescribed application forms and fee to the jurisdiction;
- submit a request to NCBE for an official UBE transcript to be sent to the jurisdiction (see [UBE Score Services](#));
- satisfy the jurisdiction's character and fitness and other admission requirements; and
- complete jurisdiction-specific law component(s), if required.

Minimum Passing UBE Scores

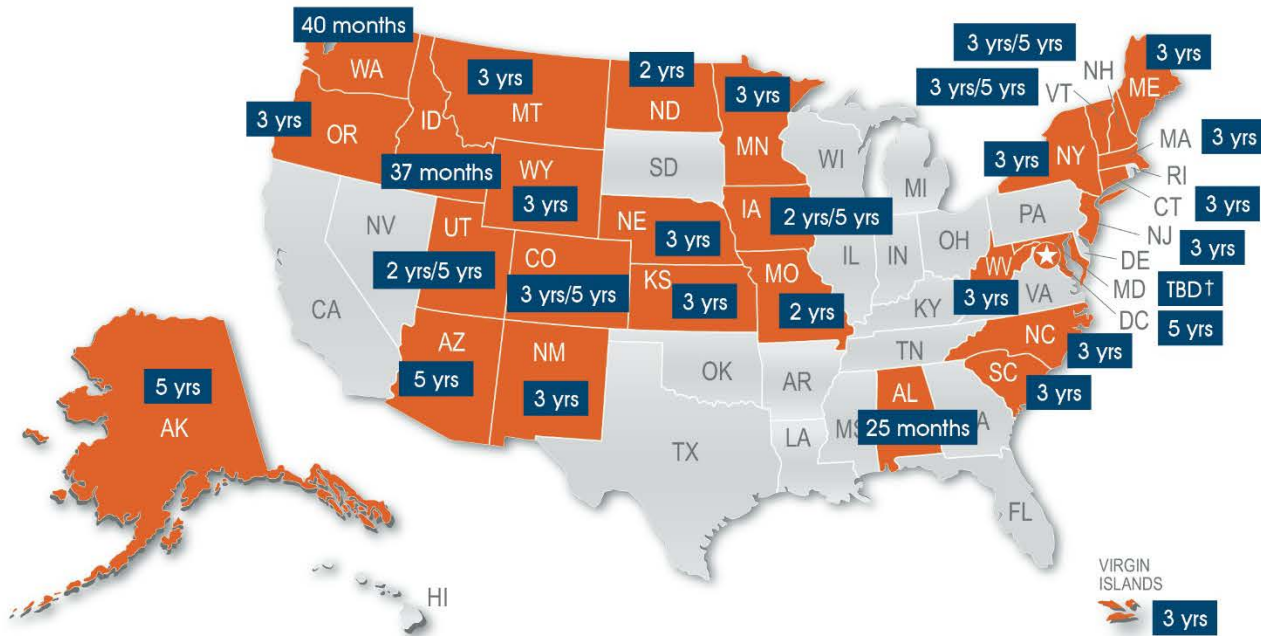


260 Alabama Minnesota Missouri New Mexico North Dakota	266 Connecticut District of Columbia Iowa Kansas Montana New Jersey New York South Carolina Virgin Islands	270 Massachusetts Nebraska New Hampshire North Carolina Utah Vermont Washington West Virginia Wyoming	272 Idaho	274 Oregon	280 Alaska
			273 Arizona	276 Colorado Maine	

A score that does not meet the minimum passing score in the testing jurisdiction may be portable to another jurisdiction if the score is at or above the level required in the receiving jurisdiction.

* The minimum passing UBE score in Maryland has not been determined.

Maximum Age of Transferred UBE Scores



Missouri
North Dakota

Iowa
Utah

Alabama

Connecticut	New Mexico
Kansas	New York
Maine	North Carolina
Massachusetts	Oregon
Minnesota	South Carolina
Montana	Virgin Islands
Nebraska	West Virginia
New Jersey	Wyoming

Colorado
New Hampshire
Vermont

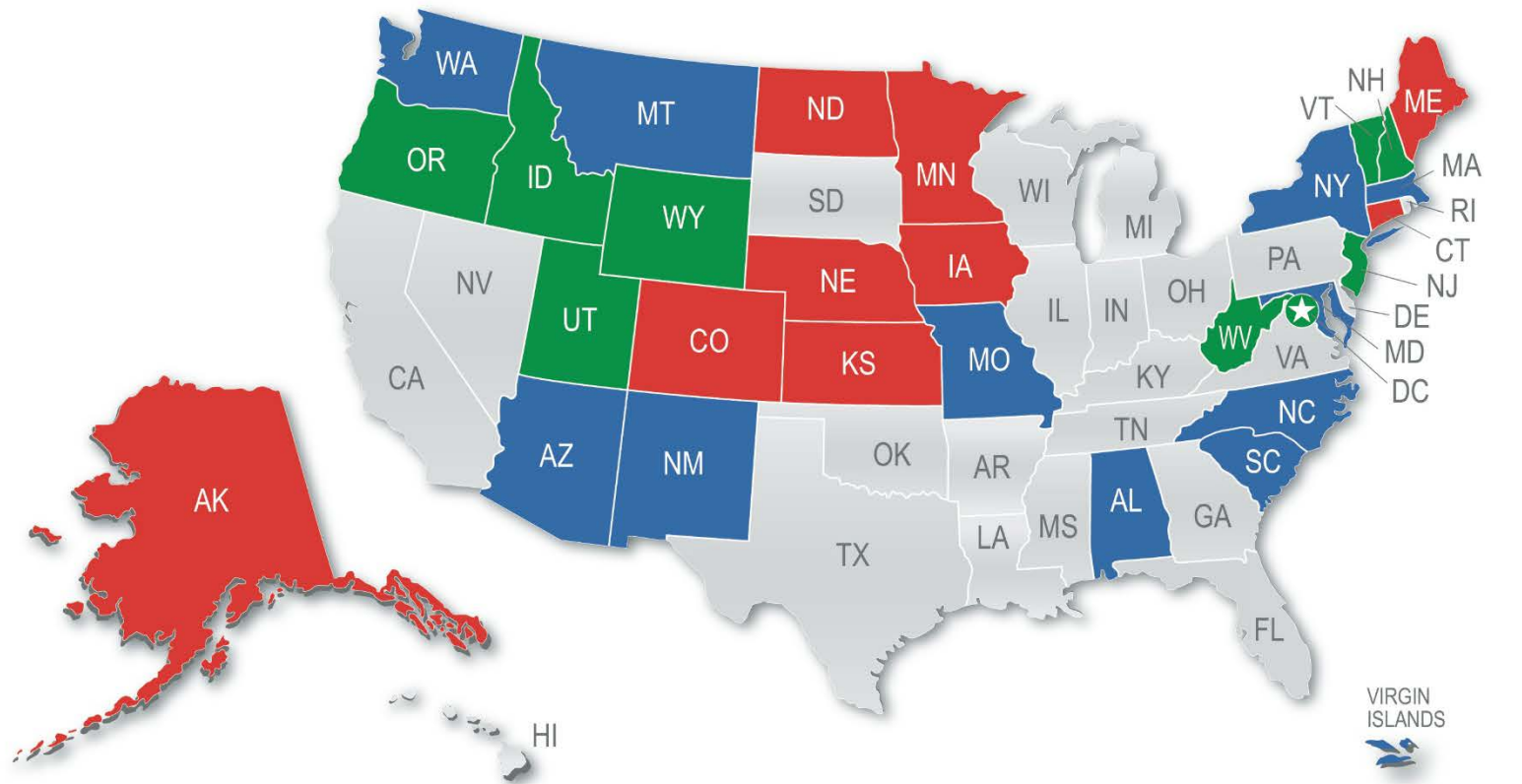
Idaho

Washington

Alaska
Arizona
District of
Columbia

[†] The maximum age of transferred UBE scores in Maryland has not been determined.

UBE Jurisdiction-specific Law Component Requirements



No component:
Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut,
Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota,
Nebraska, North Dakota

Pre-admission component:
Alabama, Arizona, Maryland,
Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana,
New Mexico, New York, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Virgin Islands,
Washington

Post-admission component:
District of Columbia, Idaho, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, Vermont,
West Virginia, Wyoming

Jurisdiction-specific Law Components Required

Pre-admission:*

- **Live course:** Montana, New Mexico
- **Online course:** Alabama, Arizona, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virgin Islands
- **Online open-book multiple-choice test:** Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Virgin Islands, Washington

Post-admission course or mentorship: District of Columbia, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

* The nature of the pre-admission jurisdiction-specific law component that will be required in Maryland has not been determined.

Questions regarding the Uniform Bar Examination should be submitted through our online [Help and Support](#) or by telephone at 608-280-8550.

Since jurisdiction rules and policies change, you are strongly advised to [consult the jurisdiction's bar admission agency](#) directly for the most current information.

