



New York Bar Exam checklist for Canadians

The bar admissions process can be overwhelming. This checklist will help guide you through critical steps to successfully qualify as a New York state attorney.



☐ Confirm your eligibility to sit for a New York Bar Exam

Canadian educated lawyers or J.D./LL.B. graduates may take the bar exam in the state of New York. However, it is required to complete a three or four-year full-time J.D./LL.B. on campus. If these requirements are not met, completing an LL.M. from a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) can resolve any deficiencies regarding eligibility.

Please visit the website of the New York state bar exam for more information:

- New York: nybarexam.org/Foreign/ForeignLegalEducation.htm

☐ Create a NCBE account



My NCBE number

You are required to create a NCBE account that comes with a unique NCBE number for identification purposes. You will need this number to be able to take the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam), which is developed by the NCBE (National Conference of Bar Examiners).

Most people create an account when registering for the MPRE.

Here's where to register with the NCBE: ncbex.org/exams/mbe/registration/

☐ Deadlines for requesting evaluation of eligibility

Bar exam filing deadline

The state of New York independently decides who may sit for their bar exam and who may be ultimately admitted. To ensure that you receive a timely decision on your eligibility, you must complete your application and submit all required supporting documentation by the following deadlines:

- Applicants qualifying with a Canadian J.D./LL.B. must complete an online evaluation by **November 30th/April 30th** and required documentation by **February 1st/June 15th** for the **February/July exam**, respectively.
- Applicants requiring an LL.M. from an ABA accredited university must submit online evaluation and required documentation by **May 1st/October 1st** for the **February/July exam**, respectively.



☐ Apply for the bar exam | fall/spring deadlines



It is important to think ahead on how you will pay for your state's bar exam fees. The cost of the New York Bar Exam for Canadians is \$750 plus an additional on-motion application fee, character and fitness fee and laptop/software fee.

For more information:

Download the free BARBRI Bar Exam Digest for international lawyers, law grads and U.S. LL.M. students at barbri-prep.com/extended-bar-course/bar-exam-digest/

☐ Complete the character and fitness application

You will be required to submit the Character and Fitness application. You will be asked to disclose details about your academic, work and financial history, as well as include references, any criminal record and civil proceedings. Candor is key. It can be an extensive process so give yourself enough time to gather the required information. If you have previously submitted a Character and Fitness application, you may need to submit an update depending on the requirements.



☐ Sign notarized authorization and release (A&R) form



Moral character application deadline

A notarized A&R provides character and fitness analysts the authority to perform a full background check on you. You'll need to print this form and sign it in the presence of a notary. You can upload the A&R to your online account or mail it postmarked no later than the filing deadline for the bar exam. Your bar exam application will not be accepted without a signed and notarized A&R form.

☐ Take the MPRE, NYLC and NYLE

Exam date

Registration deadline

The MPRE (Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination) is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice exam and administered three times a year in March, August and November.

In addition, you will also need to complete an online course known as the New York Law Course, and an online, open book exam on New York specific law, known as the New York Law Exam.

You can register for the free BARBRI MPRE review course here: barbri.com/mpre-review

