

CHART VII: Grading & Scoring



State or Jurisdiction	What is the average grading and reporting period for the bar examination in your jurisdiction?	State the minimum passing score in your jurisdiction.			
		MBE	Written	Combined Score	MPRE
Alabama	9 weeks	-	-	128	75
Alaska	10-12 weeks	-	-	140	80
Arizona	9 weeks	-	-	410	85
Arkansas	5 weeks	-	-	405	85
California	13 weeks (Feb.); 17 weeks (July)	-	-	1440	79
Colorado	Approximately 9 weeks	-	-	276	85
Connecticut	6 weeks (Feb.); 8 weeks (July)	-	-	264	80
Delaware	11 weeks	-	-	145	85
Dist. of Columbia	9-10 weeks	133	133	266	75
Florida	6-8 weeks	-	-	136	80
Georgia	13 weeks	-	-	270	75
Hawaii	10-12 weeks	-	-	134	85
Idaho	6 weeks	-	-	70%	85
Illinois	7 weeks	-	-	264	80
Indiana	8-9 weeks	-	-	264	80
Iowa	7 weeks	-	-	266	80
Kansas	6 weeks	-	-	133	80
Kentucky	9-13 weeks	132	75%	-	75
Louisiana	5-6 weeks (Feb.); 8-9 weeks (July)	N/A	70	N/A	80
Maine	8 weeks	-	-	138	80
Maryland	8-9 weeks (Feb.); 13-14 weeks (July)	-	-	406	N/A
Massachusetts	14 weeks	-	-	270	85
Michigan	May 15 (Feb.); Nov. 15 (July)	-	-	135	75
Minnesota	12 weeks	-	-	260	85
Mississippi	April 25 (Feb.); Sept. 25 (July)	-	-	132	75
Missouri	7 weeks	-	-	1300	80
Montana	6-7 weeks	-	-	130	80
Nebraska	5-6 weeks	-	-	135	85
Nevada	8 weeks	-	75 scaled	75	85
New Hampshire	8 weeks	-	-	280	79
New Jersey	In May (Feb.); in Nov. (July)	-	-	133	75
New Mexico	6-8 weeks	-	-	130	75
New York	In May (Feb.); in Nov. (July)	-	-	665	85
North Carolina	4 weeks	-	-	346	80
North Dakota	7 weeks	-	-	260	80
Ohio	12 weeks	-	-	405	85
Oklahoma	7 weeks	135	1200	2400	75
Oregon	6 weeks	-	-	65.000	85
Pennsylvania	5 weeks (Feb.); 9 weeks (July)	-	-	272	75
Rhode Island	10 weeks	130	-	276	80
South Carolina	8 weeks (Feb.); 12 weeks (July)	125	70%	-	77
South Dakota	6 weeks	-	-	130	75
Tennessee	6 weeks (Feb.); 9 weeks (July)	See Supplemental Remarks			75
Texas	10 weeks (Feb.); 14 weeks (July)	-	-	675	85
Utah	8 weeks	-	-	260	86
Vermont	6 weeks	135	135	-	80
Virginia	9 weeks	-	-	See Supplemental Remarks	85
Washington	10 weeks	N/A	-	N/A	N/A
West Virginia	7 weeks	-	-	270	75
Wisconsin	6 weeks	-	129	258	N/A
Wyoming	8 weeks	130	70%	-	75
Guam	6-8 weeks	-	-	132.5	80
Northern Mariana Islands	8-9 weeks	120	65%	-	75
Palau	5 weeks	120	65%	-	75
Puerto Rico	8-9 weeks	N/A	-	596	N/A
Virgin Islands	8 weeks	133	70%	70%	75

See supplemental remarks.

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Explain the specific passing score in your jurisdiction.

Alaska Essay converted to MBE scale using standard deviation method. Essay and MBE are then added together and divided by 2. Combined score of 140 or more is passing.

Arizona Essay scaled to MBE and doubled, plus MBE score. Out of possible 600, must score 410 to pass.

Arkansas Written portion of exam scaled to MBE using standard deviation method. Total score equals written scaled score x 2 + MBE scaled score. A total score of 405 or higher is required to pass.

California Applicant can earn up to 100 raw points on each of six essays and up to 200 raw points on each PT. Scaled MBE scores reported on a 2000-point scale and scores on written portion are scaled to MBE and reported on a 2000-point scale. Written portion is 65% of total, MBE is 35% of total, passing score is a final total scaled score of 1440.

Colorado Combined MBE/essay/performance test – 276 out of 400 total points.

Connecticut Essay converted to MBE scale using standard deviation method. Total score is sum of MBE scaled score and essay score on MBE scale.

Delaware Essays and MPTs are scaled to the MBE using the standard deviation method. A weighted combined score of 145 is required to pass. Essays weighted 40%, MPT 20%, MBE 40%.

District of Columbia Combined score of 266 is passing; score of 133 on MBE or essay indicative of passing that portion.

Florida Combined score of 136 is required.

Hawaii Combined MBE/essay score of 134; both scores of equal weight.

Idaho Combined MBE/MEE/MPT essay score of 70; MEE/essay/MPT two-thirds; MBE one-third. MPRE – 85 scaled; prior to taking exam or within next two MPRE administrations after successfully completing bar exam.

Illinois Combined scaled score of 264 points out of possible 400 total scaled points.

Indiana Combined scaled score of 264.

Iowa No specified score for MBE or essay.

Kansas Combined MBE/essay scaled score of 133 or higher to pass the examination. Both scores are of equal weight.

Kentucky Must pass essay with a 75% score and MBE with a scaled score of 132 or higher and pass each portion separately – no combining scores.

Maine Combined MBE/essay – 138 scaled (MBE counts for 4/11 and essay counts for 7/11).

Maryland Effective July 2000, essay converted to MBE scale using standard deviation method. Total score = essay scaled score x 2 + MBE scaled score. A total scaled score of 406 or higher is required to pass.

Massachusetts A combined essay and MBE scaled score of 270 is passing score. No specific score required for transfer in a concurrent examination.

Michigan There are 150 possible points on essay portion of the exam, and 200 possible points on MBE portion. A combined score of 135 or above is necessary to pass exam using following formula: combined score = $\frac{4}{3}(\text{essay total}) + \text{MBE scale score} \div 2$.

Minnesota Six essays (weighted 37.5%) and 1 MPT (weighted 12.5%) are scaled to the MBE scale score (weighted 50%) using the standard deviation method. Scaled scores are combined; minimum passing score required is 260 out of possible 400 scaled points.

Mississippi All applicants must obtain a combined score of 132 scaled score on essay, MBE, and performance test exams. Scores on Mississippi state essay exam (MSE), MEE, and MPT are converted to 0-200 point range utilizing standard deviation method. Components are weighted as follows: MSE–30%, MEE–15%, MPT–15%, MBE–40%.

Missouri Essays and MPT converted to MBE scale using standard deviation method and then weighted 60/40 as follows: (Scaled Essay x 6) + (Scaled MBE x 4) = combined weighted score.

Montana Essay exams are converted to the 200 MBE point scale and combined with the MBE scaled scores, weighting the essay 2:1 to the MBE. The lowest passing score is 130. The combined score is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Scaled MBE} + (\text{Scaled Essay} \times 2) \div 3$$

Nebraska Combined MBE/Essay – 135 scaled.

Nevada Combined MBE/Essay – 75 scaled and a minimum of a scaled score of 75 on three of nine essay questions.

New Jersey Combined MBE/Essay scaled score of 133 – MBE weighted 35%; essays weighted 65%.

New York Combined MBE/Essay – 665 out of 1,000 points in July 2005, rising to 670 in July 2006. MPRE scaled score of 72 required of applicant who took the MPRE prior to 2002.

North Carolina Combined MBE/Essay – 346 out of 500. Essays weighted 60%; MBE 40%.





North Dakota All applicants must obtain combined score of 260 on MEE, MPT and MBE exams. Standard deviation method of combining scores is used.

Northern Mariana Islands Essay and MPT scores are combined – 65; MBE – 120, and MPRE scaled of 75.

Ohio Scores on the written portion of the exam (combined MPT and essay) are scaled to the MBE range of scores using mean and standard deviation method. Scaled written score is doubled and added to scaled MBE score. Total score of 405 is required to pass.

Oklahoma Effective July 1997 – combined MBE/Essay – 135 scaled.

Oregon Combined MBE/MPT/Essay – grade of 65.000. MBE–50%; MPT–12.5%; Essay–37.5%.

Pennsylvania Combined PT/Essay weighted at 55%. MBE weighted at 45%. Passing score is 272 combined.

Puerto Rico For essay questions and multiple choice questions, combined passing score is 596 points out of 1,000 adjusted points.

Rhode Island Essay and MPT scores are scaled to the MBE; a minimum score of 130 on the MBE is required.

South Carolina Applicants tested on 6 sections on essay and MBE, making a total of 7 sections. Passing score on essay is 70 and scaled score on MBE is 125. Applicants must pass 6 out of 7 sections in order to pass exam. An applicant with a scaled MBE score of 110 or less automatically fails the exam.

South Dakota Scores on MEE/MPT and MBE are combined utilizing standard deviation method. Combined score of 130 or above is passing.

Tennessee With 125 scaled MBE, must pass 9 out of 12 essay questions; with 130 scaled MBE, must pass 8 out of 12 essay questions; with 135 scaled MBE, must pass 7 out of 12 essay questions.

Texas Exam consists of four portions weighted as follows: (MBE x 2) + (Scaled TX Essays x 2) + (Scaled Procedure & Evidence x 1/2) + (scaled MPT x 1/2). A minimum combined scaled score of 675 out of 1,000 is required to pass.

Vermont MBE – 135 scaled; essay – 135 converted. Applicants who receive a 130-134 on either the essay or MBE can still pass if the other score exceeds 135 by 2 points for each point by which the scaled score was below 135.

Virgin Islands Combined MBE/Essay – 70%

Virginia Combined MBE/Essay – MBE scaled score counts for 40%; essay score counts for 60 %. Passing score determined for each exam.

Washington Essay – 70%.

West Virginia Combined scaled MBE+MEE/MPT = 270.

Wisconsin Essay scaled to MBE. Applicants must pass, on a raw-score basis, five of the eight essay exams as well as achieving a scaled score of 129 on the essay and a total score of 258 (essay + MBE).