



# CHART X: Foreign Law School Graduates

STATE OR JURISDICTION	ARE GRADUATES OF FOREIGN LAW SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION IN YOUR JURISDICTION?		IF GRADUATES OF FOREIGN LAW SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE BAR EXAMINATION UNDER THE RULES IN YOUR JURISDICTION, ARE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED?								IF GRADUATES OF FOREIGN LAW SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION WITHOUT EXAMINATION UNDER THE RULES IN YOUR JURISDICTION, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE ALSO REQUIRED?			DOES YOUR JURISDICTION RECOGNIZE WITH REGULARITY THE SUFFICIENCY OF A LEGAL EDUCATION RECEIVED AT ANY PARTICULAR FOREIGN LAW SCHOOL?		IF A FOREIGN LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE OBTAINS AN LL.M. OR OTHER GRADUATE LAW DEGREE FROM AN ABA-APPROVED SCHOOL, IS THE GRADUATE THEN ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE BAR EXAM?			
	Yes	No	LEGALLY EDUCATED IN ENGLISH COMMON LAW	ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AT AN ABA-APPROVED LAW SCHOOL	HAVE PRACTICED LAW IN HOME JURISDICTION	A DETERMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY REQUIRED	ADMISSION IN ANOTHER U.S. JURISDICTION	ADMISSION IN ANOTHER U.S. JURISDICTION	A DETERMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY REQUIRED	ADMISSION IN ANOTHER U.S. JURISDICTION	LEGALLY EDUCATED IN ENGLISH COMMON LAW	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Nevada	X		X		X	X	X											X	
New Hampshire	X		X																X
New Jersey		X																	X
New Mexico	X								X										X
New York	X			X			X											X	
North Carolina	X			X														X	
North Dakota		X																	X
Ohio	X						X												X
Oklahoma		X																	X
Oregon	X		X																X
Pennsylvania	X			X		X													X
Rhode Island	X			X															X
South Carolina		X																	X
South Dakota		X																	X
Tennessee	X						X												X
Texas	X			X		X													X
Utah	X		X	X		X													X
Vermont	X				X														X
Virginia	X			X			X											X	
Washington	X		X		X														X
West Virginia	X		X	X			X												X
Wisconsin	X												X						X
Wyoming		X																	X
Guam		X																	X
N. Mariana Islands		X																	X
Palau	X																		X
Puerto Rico	X																	X	
Virgin Islands		X		X															X

See supplemental remarks.

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**If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible to take the bar examination under the rules in your jurisdiction, are other elements required?**

**Alabama** Foreign law graduates must petition the Alabama Supreme Court for permission to sit for the bar examination.

**Alaska** A graduate of a foreign law school in which the principles of English law are taught may be eligible to take the bar exam if he or she submits proof that, 1) the law school from which he/she graduated meets the ABA's Council of Legal Education standards for approval; and 2) he/she has successfully completed one year at an ABA-approved law school, including successful completion of one course in U.S. Constitutional Law and one course in U.S. Civil Procedure.

**California** Foreign law school graduates must request individual evaluation to determine pre-legal and legal education equivalency. Graduates from common law foreign law schools may qualify to take the California bar exam if they satisfy the First-Year Law Students' Exam requirement and if they complete additional law study for a total of 4 years at a law school registered in California. Graduates from non-common-law schools are not eligible to take the exam and are required to either graduate with a J.D. degree at an ABA-approved law school or complete 4 years of law study at a law school registered in California. Foreign law school graduates who are admitted to practice in any jurisdiction do not have to complete any additional law study to qualify to take the bar exam.

**Colorado** Must have practiced actively and substantially for 5 of the previous 7 years in jurisdiction where admitted.

**District of Columbia** Applicant may be permitted to take bar examination upon successful completion of 26 semester hours of study at an ABA-approved law school; the semester hours must be in subjects covered in the bar examination. All such 26 semester hours shall be earned in courses of study, each of which is substantially concentrated on a single tested subject.

**Hawaii** Applicant must be admitted to practice and in good standing before highest court in foreign country where English common law is the basis of jurisprudence and where English is the language of instruction and practice in the courts, and must have actively practiced for 5 of past 6 years prior to filing the application for admission by examination.

**Illinois** Graduates of foreign law schools who are licensed and in good standing in country conferring law degree or in a U.S. jurisdiction, who have actively and continuously practiced under such license(s) for 5 of

the 7 preceding years, and the quality of whose legal and other education has been determined acceptable by the Board, may apply to take bar exam.

**Kentucky** An attorney who is a graduate of a foreign law school can apply for an education evaluation to determine if their legal education is substantially equivalent to the Kentucky law school education. If the law school is approved, the applicant may sit for the bar exam if he/she has been actively and substantially engaged in the practice of law for 3 of the last 5 years and meets other standards set by the Board.

**Louisiana** Applicant who has degree of Juris Doctor or equivalent must, prior to making application for admission, obtain a certificate of equivalency. Application must be filed with Committee on Bar Admissions, which shall, by lot, select the names of 3 of the 4 ABA-approved law schools in Louisiana. Deans of law schools shall designate a member of their respective faculties to sit on a panel which shall determine whether legal education of applicant is equivalent to that of a graduate of an ABA-approved law school.

**Maine** Must satisfy requirements of Regulation for Determining Equivalency of Foreign Legal Education and have practiced for 3 years in the jurisdiction where licensed.

**Maryland** A foreign-educated law school graduate or attorney must first be admitted by exam in another U.S. jurisdiction to qualify to take the bar examination.

**Massachusetts** May be permitted with further legal studies designated by the Board at an ABA-approved law school or authorized by statute of the Commonwealth to grant those degrees. Foreign law school graduates must obtain a determination of their educational equivalency from the Board.

**Missouri** Must furnish satisfactory evidence that legal education is equivalent to that provided at ABA-approved law school. Application not processed until educational equivalency approved by Board.

**New Hampshire** Graduate must be legally trained in common law and a determination of educational equivalency is required. In addition, one of the following requirements must also be met: additional education at an ABA-approved law school; good standing in home jurisdiction; or admission in another U.S. jurisdiction.

**New Mexico** Applicant may take exam if he/she is licensed in another state within the United States and has practiced there 4 of 6 years prior to application.

**New York** Applicant must complete period of law study equivalent in duration to that specified in New York rules in law school recognized by competent accrediting agency of the government of such foreign country. All applicants must have their transcripts evaluated by the Board of Law Examiners to determine if further study, in the form of a 20 credit program at an approved law school in the U.S., including basic courses in American law, is required.

**North Carolina** Effective August 1, 1995, all law schools must be ABA-approved. As of January 1996, an applicant who was educationally eligible prior to August 1, 1995, remains so. Effective August 2005 an LL.M degree will not make one educationally eligible to take the North Carolina bar exam.

**Ohio** If an applicant's legal education was not received in the United States, the education must be evaluated and approved by the Supreme Court as equivalent to ABA-approved law school education. The registration application may not be processed until the education is approved by the Supreme Court.

**Oregon** Applicant must be admitted to practice in a country where common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence, and where requirements for admission to the bar are substantially equivalent to those of Oregon, and applicant must be a graduate of a law school determined by an Oregon equivalency panel to be equivalent to an ABA-approved law school.

**Pennsylvania** Applicant must have completed law study in a foreign law school, have been admitted and in good standing at the bar of a foreign jurisdiction, and have practiced in the jurisdiction for 5 out of the last 8 years. Applicant must also complete 30 credit hours taken in specified subjects at an ABA-approved law school.

**Puerto Rico** Applicant must validate his or her studies, and obtain a law degree from an ABA-approved law school or by the Supreme Court.

**Rhode Island** Additional education at an ABA-approved law school may be required. Also, a foreign law school must be approved by a dean of an ABA-approved law school certifying that foreign degree is equivalent to that of an ABA-approved law school.

**Tennessee** Applicant must prove undergraduate and law school education are equivalent of that required by Tennessee rules.

**Texas** A graduate of a foreign non-correspondence law school accredited by its jurisdiction can take the exam if he/she holds a valid law license issued by that jurisdiction provided: he/she has 5 out of last 7 years of lawful practice in the foreign nation and either demonstrates that the law of the foreign nation is comparable to that of Texas OR holds an LL.M. from an ABA-approved law school; or he/she has 3 out of

last 5 years of lawful practice in the foreign nation, demonstrates that the law of the foreign nation is comparable to that of Texas, AND holds an LL.M. from an ABA-approved law school. In all events the applicant must demonstrate that he/she holds the equivalent of a J.D. If licensed by another U.S. jurisdiction refer to Chart III.

**Utah** Applicants must have been in active practice in an English common law jurisdiction for no less than 2 years and have successfully completed, within 24 consecutive months, not less than 24 semester hours at an ABA-approved law school, including not less than one course each in constitutional law, civil procedure, criminal procedure, legal ethics and evidence.

**Vermont** If applicant has been admitted to practice before highest court of a foreign country, which is a common-law jurisdiction, Board may allow credit for such study as it deems proper, and applicant must pursue the study of law in Vermont for at least 2 years immediately preceding examination under the supervision of an attorney who has practiced at least 3 years in Vermont.

**Virginia** Applicant for examination who has received a portion of legal education in a foreign law school and has received a degree other than J.D. or LL.B. from ABA-approved law school must prove by certificate from the dean of an ABA-approved law school in Virginia that the foreign legal education together with the degree from the ABA-approved law school is equivalent to that required for an LL.B. or J.D. at such dean's law school.

**Washington** Must practice 3 out of last 5 years or participate in the law clerk program.

**West Virginia** If applicant is a law school graduate from a foreign country where the common law of England exists as the basis of its jurisprudence; the educational requirements for admission in said country are substantially the same as in West Virginia; and applicant has successfully completed 30 credit hours of basic courses at an ABA-approved law school.

**If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible for admission without examination under the rules in your jurisdiction, which additional requirements also apply?**

**District of Columbia** The applicant has been a member in good standing for 5 years of a court of general jurisdiction of any U.S. state or territory.

**Massachusetts** The Board may excuse applicants admitted in foreign countries from taking a regular bar exam provided the applicant has met the following requirements: has obtained Board approval on their educational equivalency and work history, has their principal residence in Massachusetts, has passed the MPRE, and has been admitted in the foreign jurisdiction for at least 5 years prior to applying.

**New Hampshire** Foreign law graduates are only eligible for admission without examination if they meet other requirements for reciprocal admission for lawyers licensed in other states.

**Ohio** If an applicant's legal education was not received in the United States, the education must be evaluated and approved by the Supreme Court. The application for admission without examination may not be processed until the education is approved.

**Vermont** If the law school is approved by Court, each request is reviewed individually first by the Board.

**Washington** A foreign law school applicant who has been admitted to practice by examination in any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence and who has actively practiced law for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application may qualify to take the bar exam.

**Wisconsin** If eligible for admission on proof of practice elsewhere, having first been admitted to a reciprocal U.S. jurisdiction.

**Does your jurisdiction recognize with regularity the sufficiency of a legal education received at any particular foreign law school?**

**Massachusetts** Canadian Law Schools: University of Alberta; University of British Columbia; University of Calgary; Dalhousie University; University of Manitoba; McGill University; University of New Brunswick; University of Ottawa; Queen's University; University of Toronto; University of Victoria; University of Western Ontario; University of Windsor; York University (Osgood Hall Law School); University of Saskatchewan.

**New York** Graduates of 3-year programs at Oxford, Cambridge, or University of London (internal program) may be admitted to the bar exam.

**If a foreign law school graduate obtains an LL.M or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school, is the applicant then eligible to take the bar examination?**

**California** Applicant might be credited for one year of law study and might receive exemption from First-Year Law Students' Examination; however, applicant must petition for a determination of acceptance of foreign law study toward the legal education requirement. Generally, common law foreign law school graduates need one year of law study at a U.S. or California-accredited law school. Non-common law graduates may need 3-4 years of additional law study.

**Connecticut** Applicant who did not receive first degree in law from an approved law school may submit credentials to committee. If accepted, committee will permit applicant to sit for exam upon receipt of LL.M. from approved school. Legal education obtained in countries whose system is based on English common law is required. All other foreign trained applicants must obtain a J.D. or LL.B. from an approved law school.

**Kentucky** Applicant must still submit to education evaluation but additional degree has bearing on Board decision.

**Maine** Applicant's total education must be found to be substantially equivalent.

**Massachusetts** Not automatically, but depends on content (course of study) as well as other facts.

**New York** In most cases, but there are other factors as well.

**Palau** A graduate of a foreign law school accredited in that country is eligible with or without a graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school.

**Tennessee** Applicant's total education must be found to be substantially equivalent.

**Texas** A graduate of a foreign non-correspondence law school accredited by its jurisdiction can take the exam if he/she holds a valid law license issued by that jurisdiction provided: he/she has 5 out of last 7 years of lawful practice in the foreign nation and either demonstrates that the law of the foreign nation is comparable to that of Texas or holds an LL.M. from an ABA-approved law school; or he/she has 3 out of last 5 years of lawful practice in the foreign nation, demonstrates that the law of the foreign nation is comparable to that of Texas, and holds an LL.M. from an ABA-approved law school. In all events the applicant must demonstrate that he/she holds the equivalent of a J.D.

**Virginia** Applicant for examination who has received a portion of legal education in a foreign law school and has received a degree from an ABA-approved law school other than an LL.B. or J.D., must furnish proof by certificate from the dean of an ABA-approved law school in Virginia that the foreign legal education together with the approved law school degree is equivalent to that required for an LL.B. or J.D. in such dean's law school.

