

CHART III: Permitted Means of Legal Study (Bar Exam)

State or Jurisdiction	Is eligibility to take the bar exam limited to J.D. or LL.B. graduates of ABA-approved law schools under your rules?		If not, what other means of legal study do your rules permit for bar exam applicants?								
	Yes	No	Non ABA-approved in-state school approved by state authority	Non ABA-approved out-of-state school approved by state authority	Unapproved law school (not state or ABA) wherever located	Grad. from unapproved law school plus specified # of years of practice	Grad. from unapproved law school plus specified # of hours at ABA-approved law school	Law office study	Correspondence Study	Foreign law degree (Also see Chart X for add'l details)	U.S. LL.M or other grad degree from ABA law school
Alabama		X	X	X	X	X					
Alaska		X				X				X	
Arizona	X										
Arkansas	X										
California		X	X					X	X	X	
Colorado		X		X							
Connecticut		X	X	X						X	X
Delaware	X										
Dist. of Columbia		X		X	X		X		X	X	
Florida	X										
Georgia	X										
Hawaii		X				X				X	
Idaho	X										
Illinois		X								X	
Indiana	X										
Iowa	X										
Kansas	X										
Kentucky		X		X		X				X	
Louisiana		X								X	
Maine		X	X	X		X		X		X	
Maryland	X										
Massachusetts		X	X							X	
Michigan		X	X	X							
Minnesota	X										
Mississippi	X										
Missouri		X				X				X	
Montana	X										
Nebraska	X										
Nevada		X	X	X		X				X	



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New Hampshire		X			X					X	
New Jersey	X										
New Mexico		X				X			X	X	
New York		X				X		X		X	
North Carolina		X									X
North Dakota	X										
Ohio		X								X	
Oklahoma	X										
Oregon		X								X	
Pennsylvania		X				X				X	
Rhode Island		X								X	
South Carolina	X										
South Dakota	X										
Tennessee		X	X								
Texas		X				X				X	
Utah		X								X	
Vermont		X		X				X			
Virginia		X						X		X	
Washington		X						X		X	
West Virginia		X								X	
Wisconsin		X		X							
Wyoming		X						X			
Guam		X			X						
N. Mariana Islands		X									
Palau		X		X						X	
Puerto Rico		X	X								
Virgin Islands	X										

See supplemental remarks.



CHART III: Permitted Means of Legal Study



Is eligibility to take the Bar Exam limited to J.D. or LL.B. graduates of ABA-approved law schools under your rules?

Alabama Graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools who wish to sit for the bar exam must be licensed and in good standing for the past 5 years in the state where the unaccredited law school from which they graduated is located and that state must have a reciprocal agreement with the state of Alabama allowing graduates of Alabama's unaccredited law schools to sit for that state's bar examination. At this time no state or jurisdiction has such a reciprocal agreement with Alabama.

Arizona Graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools can write the examination if they have at least 5 years of active and continuous practice within the last 7 years in some other state or states.

California Applicants who obtain legal education by attending unaccredited and correspondence law schools registered in California, or by law office study, must have four years of law study and take an examination after their first year. Applicants who pass the examination within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take it will receive credit for all law study completed to the date of the administration of the examination passed. Applicants who pass it on a subsequent attempt will receive credit for only one year of study. Applicants attending law schools accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners qualify to take the bar exam upon graduation.

Colorado Must have practiced 5 of previous 7 years in order to sit for bar exam.

District of Columbia Graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools can write the exam if they have successfully completed at least 26 semester hours in subjects tested on the DC bar exam from an ABA-approved law school.

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.

Kentucky Non-ABA-approved law school graduates and foreign attorneys can apply to take the bar exam, but must first have an education equivalency evaluation conducted, must have been actively and substantially engaged in the practice of law as principal occupation for 3 of last 5 years, and must meet other standards set by the Board.

Louisiana Foreign attorneys can apply to take the bar exam, but must first have an educational equivalency evaluation conducted.

Maine Applicants may have either graduated from a law school accredited by the jurisdiction where it is located and have been admitted to practice by exam within the U.S. and have been in the active practice of law in a jurisdiction in which they are admitted for at least 3 years; or have completed 2/3 of graduation requirements from an ABA-approved law school and within 12 months after successful completion pursued the study of law in the law office of an attorney in active practice of law in Maine on a full-time basis for at least one year. Foreign law graduates may qualify for exam after determination of educational equivalency.

Massachusetts Foreign law graduates may be permitted to take the bar exam after taking further legal studies designated by the Board of Bar Examiners at an ABA approved law school.

Michigan Applicant must have a J.D. from a reputable and qualified law school. Law schools fully or provisionally approved by the ABA on the date the applicant's degree is conferred are considered to be reputable and qualified. No law school in recent memory has requested the Board to independently approve it as reputable and qualified.

Missouri Determination of educational equivalency of foreign legal education may be requested.

Nevada An attorney who is not a graduate of an ABA-approved law school and has at least 10 years of active and continuous practice in some other state(s) must first have an education equivalency evaluation conducted. No practice rule required of foreign applicants, but they are also required to have an education evaluation.

New Hampshire Currently, graduates of two non-ABA-approved law schools in Massachusetts are permitted to sit if they have first been admitted in Massachusetts. Graduates of foreign law schools who meet other requirements are also eligible for admission.

New Mexico Graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools, correspondence law schools, and foreign law schools may write the examination if they are licensed and in good standing in another state and have engaged in the practice of law for 4 of the 6 years prior to application.

New York Law office study permitted after successful completion of one year at an ABA-approved law school. Graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools can write the examination if they have at least five years active and continuous practice within the last seven years in some other state or states.

Ohio Determination of educational equivalency made for foreign law degrees.

Pennsylvania Pennsylvania applicant must have graduated from an ABA-approved law school or, if the applicant has graduated from a non-ABA-approved law school, the applicant must be admitted and in good standing in a reciprocal jurisdiction and have practiced five (5) out of last seven (7) years in a reciprocal jurisdiction, immediately preceding the date of filing of the application.

Puerto Rico The general rule requires that the applicant must have studied law and obtained the corresponding law degree from an ABA-approved law school or a law school approved by the Court.

Texas Generally, Texas requires an applicant to have a J.D. from an ABA-approved law school. Texas has no provision for admitting an applicant whose law degree was obtained through correspondence study (which includes “distance learning” or “external programs”). An attorney licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction may be eligible for exemption from the ABA-approved J.D. requirement to take the Texas bar exam if he or she has been actively and substantially engaged in the lawful practice of law in a U.S. jurisdiction for at least 3 out of 5 years before the application is filed.

Utah Foreign lawyers graduating from schools in jurisdictions where the legal system is predominately based on English common law may sit after practicing law for 2 years in a common law jurisdiction and completing 24 semester hours at an ABA-approved law school.

Vermont Four-year law office study program; must have completed three-fourths of work accepted for a bachelor’s degree in a college approved by the Court before commencing the study of law. Non-ABA or AALS law school can be approved by the Supreme Court.

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.

West Virginia Non-ABA-approved law school graduates must show that legal education is equivalent to ABA-approved law school.

Wisconsin Must have received first professional degree in law from a law school whose graduates are eligible to take the bar exam of the jurisdiction in which the school is located, and must have taken and passed the bar examination and been admitted to that or another U.S. jurisdiction.

Wyoming Law office study permitted as a structured course comparable to 2 years at an ABA-approved law school. Prior approval of independent study required.