



Bar Admissions

The Career Services Department has prepared the following summary for law students planning to take the bar examination. This summary focuses on the requirements for admission in South Carolina.

Requirements for bar admissions in different jurisdictions vary. It is the student's responsibility to research and meet the requirements for bar admissions in any state or territory. Accordingly, students are urged to contact as soon as possible the appropriate authorities in these jurisdictions to determine the necessary steps to meet these bar admissions requirements.

The National Conference of Bar Examiners Web site (<http://www.ncbex.org>) includes a comprehensive guide to bar admission requirements and links to bar admission offices throughout the United States and its territories.

For information on the Patent Bar Exam, visit <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/gcounsel/oed.htm>.

South Carolina

Students should refer to the section for Bar Admissions on the South Carolina Supreme Court Web site (<http://www.sccourts.org/bar/index.cfm>) for more detailed information about the bar application and admission process, downloadable forms, and the text of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules referenced below.

Trial Experiences

Before lawyers may appear alone in any matter in any court in South Carolina, they must complete certain trial experiences as set forth in Rule 403 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Law students may begin to accumulate these trial experiences after they have completed half the credits needed for graduation. A summer clerkship, internship, or externship program may provide an opportunity to begin to observe the required trials.



The certificate or affidavit that students must submit to the Bar Admissions Office is available on the section for Bar Admissions on the South Carolina Supreme Court Web site (<http://www.sccourts.org/bar/index.cfm>).

Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)

The MPRE is required for admission to the bars in all but three jurisdictions in the United States and its territories. Bar exam candidates must obtain a passing score on the MPRE before being admitted to practice law in South Carolina.

For information on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam, visit <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpre>.

The MPRE is given in March, August, and November in various locations nationwide. The timing of when a law student takes the MPRE is a personal decision. Most law students, however, take the MPRE in November of their third year. Taking legal ethics is not required before taking the MPRE, but can help with test preparation.

The Charleston School of Law offers a viewing of the 4.5 hour MPRE review course on three Saturdays a year before each administration of the exam. The review course includes a book and outline designed to help students prepare for the MPRE.

Students should contact the bar admissions offices of the jurisdictions in which they plan to take the bar exam for the most current information concerning passing scores, rules, and policies. General information about the MPRE, including a free online practice exam, is available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners Web site (<http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpre/>).

Bar Application

Law students who graduate in May generally take the July Bar Examination. The filing period for the July South Carolina Bar Examination is December 1 until January 31. The filing period for the February South Carolina Bar Examination is August 1 until September 30. The application fee varies as shown below:

July Applications Filed Between:	February Applications Filed Between:	Filing Fee
December 1 to January 10	August 1 to August 31	\$400
January 11 to January 31	September 1 to September 30	\$750



Bridge the Gap Program

Before candidates for admission may be sworn-in to practice law in South Carolina, they must complete the Bridge the Gap Program set forth in Rule 402(c) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

This three-day program is designed to help bar applicants “bridge the gap” between law school or the practice of law in another state with the practice of law in South Carolina. Bridge the Gap registrants will include second and third year law students, law school graduates, and attorneys licensed to practice in other states. Inactive members of the South Carolina Bar seeking to return to active status also may attend Bridge the Gap.

The South Carolina Bar Web site

(http://www.scbare.org/member_resources/continuing_legal_education)

includes a brochure and registration form for the Bridge the Gap Program.

Taking the Bar for More than One State

Most states, including South Carolina, will accept a concurrent score on the national part of the bar exam, which is called the Multistate Bar Examination or the MBE. Applicants may be able to take two state bar exams during one summer or winter administration depending on the dates of the state exams they are taking. Students should contact the bar admissions offices of the specific states involved.

Reciprocity with Other State Bars

In many states, an attorney licensed and practicing for a period of time in one jurisdiction may be admitted to the bar in another jurisdiction without having to take and pass the bar examination in the second jurisdiction. Except for certain law professors and applicants for limited certificates to practice law, South Carolina does not have reciprocity with other state bars. Students should contact the South Carolina Office of Bar Admissions or the bar admissions offices in the states in which they would like to practice for specific details.



Bar Review Courses*

[BARBRI](#)

[BarPlus](#)

[PMBR Multistate review](#)

[MyBarPrep](#)

[Micromash](#)

[The Study Group Personal Bar Review](#)

*The above links to bar review courses are provided to students as a convenience only. This information does not constitute an endorsement of any programs or products by the Charleston School of Law.