



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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## **Qualifying for Admission to Practice Law in California through Correspondence or Distance Learning Law Study**

The requirements for admission to practice law in California are contained in the *Rules of the State Bar of California*, Title 4, Division 1 (*Admissions Rules*). The following is a summary of the requirements for students qualifying for admission to practice law in California through correspondence or distance-learning law study. For the specific requirements, refer to the *Admissions Rules*.

To be admitted to practice law in California, an applicant must comply with the requirements outlined in the *Admissions Rules*, which include:

- obtaining the required pre-legal education before beginning the study of law;
- completing the requisite legal education;
- registering as a law student;
- passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination, unless exempt from taking the examination;
- receiving a positive moral character determination;
- passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination;
- passing the California Bar Examination; and,
- additionally, an applicant must not be certified by the State Department of Social Services as being in non-compliance with a court ordered child or family support obligation. There is no requirement of citizenship or residency.

Applicants may qualify to take the California Bar Examination by studying law for four years through a correspondence or distance-learning law school that is registered with the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee). A minimum of 864 hours of preparation and study per year is required. Refer to Rule 4.28 of the *Admissions Rules* for the specific requirements pertaining to such study.

Refer to *Unaccredited Law School Rules* for the requirements required for registration as a correspondence or distance-learning law school. Credit will not be allowed for study that does not comply with the requirements of the *Admissions Rules*.

In accordance with Rule 4.16 of the *Admissions Rules*, all applicants seeking admission to practice law must register with the Committee prior to filing any applications, petitions, requests for waivers or before any services can be provided. Registration is only available online at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov>.

Students studying law through correspondence or distance-learning law study are required to pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination. Students may be granted a maximum of two years of law study credit if they take and pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination

within three consecutive attempts after first becoming eligible to take it, which is after completion of their first year of law study. Students passing the examination after three attempts will receive credit for only one year of law study. Refer to Rule 4.31 of the *Admissions Rules* for more information concerning credit after passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

Refer to Chapter 5 of the *Admissions Rules* for more information regarding the examinations that must be passed in order to become qualified for admission to practice law in California.

Lists of correspondence and distance-learning law schools currently registered with the Committee of Bar Examiners are available on the State Bar's Web site at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov>.