



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

---

**180 Howard Street • San Francisco, CA 94105-1639 • (415) 538-2300  
845 S. Figueroa Street • Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515 • (213) 765-1500**

**DESCRIPTION AND GRADING OF THE  
CALIFORNIA FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

The First-Year Law Students' Examination is administered in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas in June and October each year. The examination includes both essay and multiple-choice questions and is administered in one day. Four hours is allocated for completing the four-essay question portion of the examination and three hours for one hundred multiple-choice questions.

The subjects covered in this examination are: Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. An answer based upon legal theories and principles of general applicability is sufficient; detailed knowledge of California law is not required. The following provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code should be used where pertinent:

- a. All of Article 1;
- b. All of Article 2.

All law students who have successfully completed one year of law study are eligible to apply for the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

**Law Student Registration**

Applications for the First-Year Law Students' Examination will not be accepted unless the applicant previously has registered with the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) as a law student in compliance with Section 6060(d) of the Business and Professions Code and Rule 4.16 of the *Admissions Rules*.

**Applications**

Applications to take the First-Year Law Students' Examination are available online through the Admissions portion of the State Bar's Web site located at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/>. Applications are available one month prior to the timely filing deadlines for each administration of the examination, which are also published on the Web site.

**Grading of the First-Year Law Students' Examination**

An applicant's raw multiple-choice score will be the number of items answered correctly. Multiple-choice raw scores will be converted to a 400-point scale. This process adjusts for the possible differences between administrations of the examination in the average difficulty of their multiple-choice items. As a result, an applicant's multiple-choice score will not be affected by the difficulty of the particular version of the examination that the applicant takes.

An applicant's assigned grade on an essay question can range between 40 and 100. Total raw essay scores can therefore range between 160 and 400 points. Total raw essay scores will be converted to the same 400-point scale of measurement as that used for the multiple-choice portion. This is done to adjust for the possible differences between administrations of the examination in the average difficulty of their essay questions and for variations in grader standards. Consequently, an applicant's adjusted essay score on the 400-point scale will not be affected by possible differences between administrations in the difficulty of the essay questions or by fluctuations in grader standards.

An applicant's total score on the examination is the sum of that applicant's converted scores on the multiple-choice and essay sections. This step gives these sections equal weight in determining the total score. Applicants need a total scaled score of 560 or higher to pass the examination.

### **Results from the First-Year Law Students' Examination**

Results from the June administration of the First-Year Law Students' Examination are released in mid-August and from the October administration in mid-December.

### **Credit for Law Study after Passing the Examination**

Credit for law study completed after passing the First-Year Law Students' Examination is governed by the Business and Professions Code and Rule 4.31 of the *Admissions Rules* as follows:

An applicant who is required to pass the First-Year Law Students' Examination will not receive credit for any law study until the applicant passes the examination. An applicant who passes the examination within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take the examination will receive credit for all law study completed to the date of the administration of the examination passed, subject to any restrictions otherwise covered by these rules. An applicant who does not pass the examination within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take the examination but who subsequently passes the examination will receive credit for his or her first year of law study only.