

## **Bar Admission FAQs**

### **I'm just starting law school, why do I need to think about admission to the bar now?**

Each state has its own requirements for licensure. It is important to know these early so you are ready when you finish law school. Requirements can change at any time. ***IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO STAY INFORMED!***

For complete information about admission to the State Bar of California visit their [website](#). If you intend to practice elsewhere, the National Conference of Bar Examiners [website](#) lists each state's requirements and contact information for each state's bar examiners.

### **Is there anything I have to do RIGHT NOW?**

Law students who intend to practice in California must register with the Bar within 90 days of starting law school. (Visit [website](#)) Although there is no penalty for late registration, the fee (\$119 as of July 2018) typically increases each year, so it is best to register early. Keep a record of the registration number you are issued as you must use it on all subsequent communication with the Bar.

### **Do I have to take the First Year Law Students Exam offered by the California Bar?**

No. Students studying at ABA-Approved law schools like Golden Gate University School of Law are not required to take the FYLSE.

### **What else will I need to do for licensure?**

California requirements currently include the following:

- **Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)** – This two-hour multiple choice exam is offered each year in March/April, August and November and tests your knowledge of lawyers' professional conduct rules and standards. This exam is required in almost every jurisdiction, but the minimum score required varies from state to state. GGU students often take this exam concurrently with or soon after taking our Professional Responsibility course. We recommend taking the MPRE by your second to last law school term. To learn more about the MPRE click [here](#)(\$95 as of July 2018)
- **Moral Character Application** –Each applicant's history is evaluated to ensure that members possess good moral character. As part of this process, you will provide information regarding your schooling, employment and residential history. Background checks will be conducted, and your previous employers, schools, and others will be contacted. The Bar may take a minimum of six months to process and approve applications and recommends filing the application between 8-10 months prior to your intended admission. Click [here](#) for more information. (\$551 as of July 2018)
- **Live Scan Fingerprinting** – You must submit Live Scan fingerprints in conjunction with filing your Moral Character Application. GGU hosts Live Scan fingerprinting vendors on campus each fall and spring semester. Click [here](#) for additional vendors. (Fees vary)
- **Bar Examination** –The California Bar Exam is administered each February and July. May graduates typically take it in July; December graduates in February. The bar exam is a two day exam and consists of 5 essay questions, 200 multiple choice questions, and one performance test. (\$677 + \$153 for laptop use as of July 2018).

\*For more information on exam structure and grading details please visit: California Bar Exam [website](#)

To learn how GGU can help you prepare for the bar exam, contact Rana Boujaoude, Associate Professor of Law & Director of Bar Services at [rboujaoude@ggu.edu](mailto:rboujaoude@ggu.edu) .

*Note: Students with disabilities must apply well in advance for accommodations on the MPRE and/or bar exam. Receiving accommodations as an undergrad or law student does not guarantee accommodations for the MPRE or bar exam. Please visit the Assistant Director for Disability Services ([lawds@ggu.edu](mailto:lawds@ggu.edu)) for further information.*