Virginia Bar Exam Information

Virginia Board of Bar Examiners  
2201 West Broad Street  
Suite 101  
Richmond, VA  23220-2022  
Telephone: (804) 367-0412  
www.vbbe.state.va.us

http://www.barbri.com/states/virginia/bar-exam/

The Virginia bar exam is a two-day exam.

**Day 1:** Nine essay questions plus 10 short answer questions with emphasis on Virginia law.  
**Day 2:** Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam.

SUBJECTS TESTED

**MBE Subjects**  
Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts

**Virginia Essay Subjects**  

**MPRE**  
Virginia requires a scaled score of 85 or higher on the MPRE achieved within two calendar years of the time the candidate passes the Virginia bar exam.

Bar Exam Dates:

- **2016 Winter:** February 23 – 24  
- **2016 Summer:** July 26 - 27

FILING DEADLINES AND FEES

**Exam Application Fee:** $375  
**Character and Fitness Fee:** $400 for students currently enrolled in a J.D. program or recent graduates who received J.D. less than one year prior to filing deadline and not admitted in any other jurisdiction. $425 for graduates who received their J.D. more than one year prior to the
filing deadline and graduates already admitted to the practice of law in another jurisdiction at the
time of filing.

**Laptop Fee: $125**

The filing deadline for the February bar exam is December 15. The filing deadline for the July
bar exam is May 11. There are no extensions or late filings.

**GRADING AND RESULTS**

The MBE score (weighted 40%) and the essay score (weighted 60%) are combined to determine
if applicant has achieved a passing score of at least 140. Results are generally released in late
April for February exam and mid-to late-October for July exam.

**RECIROCITY**

**Acceptance of MBE Score**
Virginia does not accept an MBE score from an exam taken in another jurisdiction.

**Admission on Motion**
An attorney having been admitted to practice law in another jurisdiction may apply for admission
to practice law in Virginia without sitting for the Virginia bar exam if the other jurisdiction has
reciprocity for Virginia lawyers. One of the requirements for admission on motion is that the
applicant has been engaged in the full-time practice of law for at least three of the last five years
immediately preceding application for admission to the Virginia Bar.

**Application for Admission without Examination with Character and Fitness
Questionnaire: $1,500**

**MILITARY SPOUSE PROVISIONAL ADMISSION**

The dependent spouse of an active duty service member stationed in the Commonwealth of
Virginia, who has been admitted to practice law before the court of last resort of any state or
territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia and who meets all other requirements
of Rule 1A:8, may apply to the Board for Military Spouse Provisional Admission. The Military
Spouse Provisional Admission filing fee is $400. This fee covers the cost of processing the
Application, investigating matters contained in the applicant’s completed Character & Fitness
Questionnaire, and preparing of the Character Report.