South Dakota Bar Exam Information

South Dakota Board of Bar Examiners
South Dakota Bar Exam
Board of Bar Examiners
State Capitol
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Bar Exam Format

The South Dakota Bar Exam is a 2-day exam.

Day 1: two 90-minute Multistate Performance Test (MPT) questions, five Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) questions, and one Indian Law question.

Day 2: Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam.

Subjects Tested

MBE Subjects: Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts.


Indian Law: Basic principles of federal Indian Law; including but not limited to civil law and criminal jurisdiction, the Indian Civil Rights Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Tribal laws or customary laws are not tested.

Multistate Performance Test: "Closed universe" practical problem using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

Bar Exam Dates

The South Dakota Bar Exam is administered on the last Tuesday and Wednesday in February and July.

2010 Summer: July 27 - 28
Filing Fees and Deadlines

The South Dakota bar application must be filed by November 1 for the February exam and by April 1 for the July exam. The exam fee is $300.

Grading and Results

Day 1 and Day 2 are averaged. Results for the February and July exams are released 8-10 weeks after the exam.

Reciprocity

**Admission on Motion:** An applicant may be eligible for admission on motion if (s)he is over the age of 18, has graduated from an ABA accredited school, has been in the active practice of law for the last five years, and meets additional requirement as enumerated in SDCL 16-16-12.1 and 12.2.

**Acceptance of MBE Score:** Acceptance of MBE Score: Board may in its discretion accept MBE scaled score of 130 or higher if MBE taken within 25 months prior to next scheduled exam and if applicant passed the other jurisdiction’s exam.