

International Students' eligibility to take the California or New York Bar Examinations*

In order to be able to sit for the **California** Bar Examination, International students:

1. Must be already [admitted to the practice of law in their foreign country and be in good standing](#). Such good standing is proven by the submission of a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the respective bar.
2. International students not yet admitted to the practice of law, but with a [foreign law degree](#), may also be eligible to sit for the California Bar Exam with one year of advanced law study. They must:
 - a. Obtain a Certification of Foreign Degree Equivalency from a credential evaluation agency, **AND**
 - b. Obtain an award of an LL.M. degree that meets specific requirements (Chapter 2, Rule 4.30 of the State Bar of California Admissions Rules), **OR** the successful completion of 20 units of [specific](#) legal education ([Chapter 2, Rule 4.30 of the State Bar of California Admissions Rules](#)).
 - i. "Specific legal education" includes:
 1. "a **minimum of one course in four separate subjects tested on the California Bar Examination of not less than a total of twelve (12) semester or equivalent units. One of the four courses must be Professional Responsibility** that covers the California Rules of Professional Conduct, relevant sections of the California Business and Professions Code, the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and leading federal and state case law on the subject" ([Chapter 2, Rule 4.30 of the Admissions Rules](#)).

Additional information on these requirements can be found on the [California Bar Exam](#) website.

International students who want to take the **New York** Bar Examination (effective 2012-2013):

1. Must have a foreign law degree based or not on the principles of English Common Law that satisfies the durational and substantial requirements equivalent to that of an ABA-accredited law school; OR
2. Must have a foreign law degree which may have either its durational or its substantial deficiency "cured" by an LL.M. degree at an ABA-approved law school in the U.S.
3. Regardless of the above-referenced situations, foreign educated students must first register with the New York State Board of Law Examiners, and complete and submit an [Online Foreign Evaluation Form](#), **6 (six) months prior to the first day of the application filing period for the exam they wish to take**. It is recommended that students obtain an advance determination of their eligibility **prior to** enrolling in an LL.M. program. The Board's evaluation of the students'

foreign education will determine possible deficiencies in specific educational requirements that may need to be fulfilled.

4. Nevertheless, the students' LL.M. degree program to be used as a "cure" provision must contain a minimum of 24 credits, and include:
 - a. Minimum of 2 credits in professional responsibility/legal ethics;
 - b. Minimum of 2 credits in legal research, writing & analysis;
 - c. Minimum of 2 credits in American legal studies, American legal system or similar course;
 - d. Minimum of 6 credits in other courses tested on the NY bar exam:
 - i. Business relationships including Agency, Business Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Partnerships and Joint Ventures;
 - ii. Civil Practice and Procedure (New York, except as noted);
 - iii. Conflict of laws;
 - iv. New York and Federal Constitutional Law;
 - v. Contracts and Contract Remedies;
 - vi. Criminal Law and Procedure;
 - vii. Evidence;
 - viii. Matrimonial and Family Law;
 - ix. Professional Responsibility;
 - x. Real Property;
 - xi. Torts and Tort Damages;
 - xii. Trusts, Wills and Estates; and
 - xiii. UCC Articles 2, 3 and 9.
5. Minimum 50 hours of *pro bono* service (new requirement; Section 520.16 issued Sep. 19th, 2012);
6. Additional information on these and other specific requirements can be found on the [New York State Board of Law Examiners](#) website.

* Please check respective state guidelines.

NOTE – All rules posted herein subject to change without prior notice according to respective State and Federal Laws.