



2026-2027 NEW YORK STATE BAR EXAMINATION MEMORANDUM

Upon approval of the [Foreign Evaluation Form](#), the New York State Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) allows foreign-trained attorneys to sit for the bar examination if they meet both durational (length of study) and substantive (nature of study, *i.e.*, common law) requirements.

If a foreign-trained lawyer has either a durational or a substantive deficiency (but not both), he or she may “cure” that deficiency by completing an LL.M. program meeting the specific requirements set out in Court Rule 520.6:

1. Completion of a minimum of **24 credits** of study **in classroom courses** (see below) in substantive and procedural law and professional skills in an LL.M. program at an ABA-accredited law school physically located in the U.S.; and
2. The program of study must include the following coursework:
 - a. At least **2 credit hours** in a course or courses in professional responsibility;
 - b. At least **2 credit hours** in legal research, writing and analysis, which may not be satisfied by a research and writing requirement in a substantive law course;
 - c. At least **2 credit hours** in American legal studies, the American legal system or similar course designed to introduce students to distinctive aspects and/or fundamental principles of United States law, which may be satisfied by a course in United States constitutional law or United States or state civil procedure; credit earned in such course in excess of the required two credit hours may be applied in satisfaction of the requirement of subdivision (b)(3)(vi)(d); and
 - d. At least **6 credit hours** in other courses that principally focus on subject matter tested on the New York State bar examination or the New York Law Examination prescribed in section 520.9(a)(3)

Note: With only minor exceptions, you may **not** double-count courses for more than one of the above lettered requirement sections.

Classroom courses include those in which at least two-thirds of the instruction is delivered by an instructor who is physically present in the classroom, with students also physically present, during regularly scheduled class sessions. While LL.M. students may take law courses offered through Cornell Tech that are listed in the [Law School Course Catalog](#), be aware that Cornell Tech courses are based in New York City and offered in an *online format* for Ithaca-based students. These courses include an “NY Tech Course” label in their course descriptions. Cornell Tech courses are **not** considered “classroom courses,” and credits will **not** qualify for inclusion under Court Rule 520.6. In addition, directed reading, supervised writing, and courses taught in other university divisions will not qualify for the New York Bar curriculum provisions.

The New York State Board examined 9,931 candidates during the two days of testing conducted on July 29-30, 2025. The passing rate for all candidates, including U.S. domestic-educated candidates and foreign-educated candidates, was 70%. The number of foreign-educated candidates sitting for the New York bar examination was 3,587, which accounts for 36% of all candidates who took the July 2025 examination. The passing rate for all foreign-educated candidates was 46%. A complete summary is available here: [July 2025 NY Exam Results](#).

The BOLE requires that all foreign-trained attorneys request an advance evaluation of their qualification to sit for the NY bar examination before applying to take the bar examination. They

recommend that the **evaluation** be submitted **one year prior** to applying to take the bar examination and require that it be submitted at least six months prior to the first day of the application period for the examination for which you plan to sit. As a result, **if you have not already done so, submit your Request for Foreign Evaluation** now by creating a BOLE account in the [Applicant Services Portal](#) and scrolling down to the section for the Foreign Evaluation Form.

Further information on the NY bar examination and the requirements to sit for the examination are available at the New York State Board of Law Examiners' website (see links below). We strongly recommend that you refer to their website, particularly the page devoted to **foreign legal education to confirm eligibility**, prior to dedicating your LL.M. curriculum to required subjects.

The BOLE requires **all transcripts** and other official documents be received directly from the **issuing law school** (neither you nor Cornell Law School may send the foreign transcripts or copies of your transcripts to the BOLE). If the transcripts are not in English, English translations must be provided. If your foreign transcripts do not include how course credit is calculated (*e.g.* weeks of attendance, hours of instruction per course, etc.), you should request your schools to provide that information to the BOLE in a letter accompanying your transcripts. If you are not already admitted to practice in a foreign country, you should provide proof of having completed the educational requirements for admission to practice in the foreign country in addition to proof that the foreign law schools were accredited or approved and qualified by the foreign country. That documentation must be sent directly to the BOLE by the relevant governmental authority.

Please note that the [MPRE](#), [NY Law Exam](#), [Skills Competency Requirement](#), and [Mandatory 50-hour Pro Bono Requirement](#) are **only needed after successfully passing the NY bar examination when seeking admission to the NY Bar (typically 6 months to 3 years after bar exam passage)**. It is best to align your MPRE exam date with the NY State Bar Exam date. Since the MPRE is offered three times a year we suggest the earliest option you consider is March. If you complete the MPRE during the first semester of your LL.M. year, you may risk having your **score expire** prior to seeking bar admission and it may negatively impact your ability to prepare for final fall term exams. **As a student, your primary focus during the academic year should be on attending class and successfully completing your law school courses.** Finally, foreign-educated applicants who are required to complete an LL.M. at an ABA-approved law school may satisfy the **Skills requirement** by submitting proof of compliance with either **pathway (4) Apprenticeship** or **(5) Practice in another jurisdiction**.

Useful New York Bar Exam Links:

BOLE Home Page:

<https://www.nybarexam.org/>

Foreign Legal Education:

<https://www.nybarexam.org/Foreign/ForeignLegalEducation.htm>

Applicant Services Portal & Foreign Evaluation Form

<https://portal.nybarexam.org/>

NYLC & NYLE Course Materials & Sample Questions

<https://www.nybarexam.org/Content/CourseMaterials.htm>

New York State Bar Examination Information Guide:

<https://www.nybarexam.org/TheBar/NYBarExamInformationGuide.pdf>

Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) Information Guide:

<http://www.nybarexam.org/ube/ube.html>

Page 3 includes a list of **expected courses** for the 2026-2027 academic year that the NY Court of Appeals has previously approved by category to fulfill the specific requirements of Rule 520.6. **Students are advised to refer the full list of Court-approved courses posted on the [Law Registrar's website](#) when finalizing their course schedule to account for any changes between updates of this document.**

Cornell Law School: New York State Bar Exam Qualification Requirements and Checklist (05/04/2026)
New York Court of Appeals Rule 520.6(b)(3)(iv) course approval - - *subject to revision.*

1. Completion of a minimum of **24 credits** of study in **classroom courses** in substantive and procedural law and professional skills in an LL.M. program at an ABA-accredited law school physically located in the U.S.; and
2. The program of study must include the following coursework:
 - a. At least **2 credits** in a professional responsibility course
 - b. At least **2 credits** in a legal research, writing, and analysis course
 - c. At least **2 credits** in American legal studies, American legal system, or similar course
 - d. At least **6 credits** in other courses covering subjects tested on the NY State Bar exam or NYLE

A. Professional Responsibility (2 Credits minimum)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Fall | | | | Spring | | | |
| 6641 | Professional Responsibility | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6641 | Professional Responsibility | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Legal Research, Writing and Analysis (2 Credits minimum)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Fall | | | | Spring | | | |
| 6761 | Principles of American Legal Writing | 2 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6761 | Principles of American Legal Writing | 2 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C. American Legal Studies Courses (2 Credits minimum)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| Fall | | | | Spring | | | |
| 6091 | Introduction to the American Legal System | 2 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5001 | Civil Procedure (AY w/fall enrollment) | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5001 | Civil Procedure | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| 5021 | Constitutional Law | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

D. Courses in Subjects Covered on the NYS Bar Exam & NY Law Exam (6 Credits minimum)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| Fall | | | | Spring | | | |
| 6011 | Administrative Law | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6011 | Administrative Law | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6131 | Business Organizations | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6131 | Business Organizations | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5001 | Civil Procedure | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5001 | Civil Procedure (AY w/fall enrollment) | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5021 | Constitutional Law | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5061 | Criminal Law | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5041 | Contracts | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6264 | Criminal Procedure - Investigations | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6007 | Contracts for LLMS | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6401 | Evidence | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6263 | Criminal Procedure - Adjudication | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6431 | Federal Courts | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7169 | Deals Seminar: Real Estate Transactions | 2 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6203 | First Amendment: Speech & Press Clauses | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6401 | Evidence | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6641 | Professional Responsibility | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6641 | Professional Responsibility | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5121 | Property | 4 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6801 | Remedies | 2 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| 5151 | Torts | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| 6941 | Trust & Estates | 3 credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |