

# COLORADO BAR EXAMINATION INFORMATION AND PROCEDURE

The Colorado Bar Examination consists of three parts: The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). In order to pass the Colorado Bar Exam, an examinee must score 276 scale points (of a possible 400). The formula for determining the total bar exam score is:

$$\text{MBE Scale Score} + \text{MEE Scale Score} + \text{MPT Scale Score} = \text{Bar Exam Score}$$

## A. MULTISTATE ESSAY FORMAT (DAY 1)

The MEE portion of the Colorado Bar Examination consists of eight questions. Examinees are required to answer four questions in the morning session and four in the afternoon. A total of four hours is allotted to answer eight questions (an average of thirty minutes per question). Handwritten answers may not exceed three sides of 8 ½ by 11 answer sheets for each question. Typewritten answers may not exceed 5,000 characters.

For more information about the MEE, including subjects that may be tested and areas covered within those subjects, study aids and information guides go to:

<http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mee/>

**Note, however, that Conflict of Laws will not be tested in July 2009 or February 2010.**

## B. PERFORMANCE TEST FORMAT (DAY 1)

The MPT consists of two, ninety-minute questions. One MPT question is given in the morning and one in the afternoon. The MPT questions are designed to test skills commonly used by lawyers practicing law competently. These skills generally include, but are not limited to, the following: Legal Analysis, Fact Analysis, Awareness of Professional Responsibility, Problem Solving, Research Skills, and Writing Skills. Handwritten answers may not exceed six sides of 8 ½ by 11 answer sheets for each question. Typewritten answers may not exceed 12,000 characters. For more information about the MPT, study aids and information guides, go to: <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mpt>

## C. MBE FORMAT (DAY 2)

The MBE is a 6-hour multiple-choice test consisting of 200 questions. It is divided into a 3-hour morning session and a 3-hour afternoon session. For more information about the MBE, study aids and information guides, go to: <http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/mbe>

1. Colorado **DOES NOT ACCEPT MBE SCORES** from other jurisdictions or from previous examinations for purposes of waiving the MBE portion of the exam.

## D. PROCEDURES FOR SCORING THE BAR EXAMINATION

1. **Scoring-MBE:** Raw MBE scores (the number of questions correctly answered) are converted to scale scores by the American College of Testing by use of a statistical formula designed to make scores comparable from exam to exam.
2. **Scoring-MEE:** Essay questions may vary in the number of points each is worth. Questions, however, are subjected to a formula that equates them. Therefore, no one essay question carries more weight, or is more important, than another.
3. **Scoring-MPT:** The MPT answers will be scored as are the MEE questions. Scores will be formulated so that the MPT score equals approximately 40% of the total combined MEE/MPT score (one MPT question is worth the same as about three MEE questions).
4. After MEE and MPT answers have been graded and equated, the individual point totals are added to arrive at a raw total. Next, the raw score total is converted to a corresponding score on a two hundred point scoring range and scaled to the MBE. That score is then added to the MBE scale score to arrive at a total bar exam scale score.
5. After the total bar exam scale score has been calculated, MEE and MPT answers are regraded for persons whose scores fall within a specified range of the pass line. This is to help assure that persons close to the pass line have been fairly and correctly assessed. After this regrade, the scores from the two gradings are averaged and rounded up to the next whole number. MEE and MPT scores are then added, formulated and totaled with the scale MBE score in the manner previously described. This becomes the final bar exam scale score for those persons falling within this "reassessment" category.
6. **Review for Failing Examinees:** If the bar examination is failed by three or fewer points (a score of 273, 274 or 275 total points is achieved), the examinee may request that some of his/her answers be regraded. Also, persons scoring 276 or above on the first grading, but who did not achieve a passing score after regrade may request that some of his/her answers be regraded. This review is initiated by the examinee filing a petition with this office in accordance with deadlines and procedures, which will be announced with the exam results.

Information, study aids and information guides for the MBE, MEE and MPT are available from the National Conference of Bar Examiners website: [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)