



**VERMONT SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS**

Admission to the Bar of the Vermont Supreme Court
General Eligibility Requirements

The Supreme Court has adopted Rules of Admission. The rules set out three paths to admission to the bar of the Vermont Supreme Court:

1. Admission by Examination
2. Admission by Transferred UBE Score.
3. Admission without Examination.

Rule 5 specifies the “General Requirements for Admission to the Bar.” Each applicant must:

1. be at least 18 years old; and,
2. be a US citizen or an alien who is lawfully present in the US; and,
3. establish that the applicant meets the character & fitness requirements set out in the Rules of Admission; and,
4. establish that the applicant possesses minimal professional competence by satisfying the requirements for admission by examination, by transferred UBE score, or without examination.

Admission by Examination

1. An applicant for admission by examination must have:
 - (a) graduated from an Approved Law School or satisfied the requirements for early examination in Rule 9(c)(5); or
 - (b) completed the Law Office Study Program; or
 - (c) graduated from a non-Approved Law School, if the equivalency requirements of Rule 8 are met.
2. To be eligible to enroll in the Law Office Study Program, an applicant Registrant must have earned a bachelor’s degree from a college or university within the United States that is authorized to grant a bachelor’s degree by the law of the state in which it is located. Once enrolled, a participant must comply with Rule 7 of the Rules of Admission.
3. Rule 9 sets out the requirements to sit for the Vermont administration of the Uniform Bar Exam. Some highlights:
 - a. An applicant must **timely** complete all required forms. Applications for the February exam are due on December 1. Applications for the July exam are due May 1.
 - b. An applicant must sit for the UBE within 5 years of having graduated from law school or completing the Law Office Study program.
 - c. An applicant must sit for all parts of the UBE at a single administration of the exam and score at least 270 at that administration.
 - d. An applicant must not have failed the UBE on four or more occasions.
 - e. An applicant must achieve a scaled score of 80 or higher no earlier than 3 years before sitting for the UBE and no later than 1 year after being notified of having passed a Vermont administration of the UBE.
 - f. A passing score in Vermont is 270 or higher.

4. **Exam accommodations.** An applicant must timely complete requests for exam accommodations. Requests for accommodations for the February exam are due December 1. Requests for accommodations for the July exam are due May 1.
5. An applicant must comply with Rule 12.

Admission by Transferred UBE Score

1. An applicant for admission by transferred UBE score must have:
 - (a) graduated from an Approved Law School or satisfied the requirements for early examination in Rule 9(c)(5); or
 - (b) completed the Law Office Study Program; or
 - (c) graduated from a non-Approved Law School, if the equivalency requirements of Rule 8 are met.
2. To be eligible to enroll in the Law Office Study Program, an applicant Registrant must have earned a bachelor's degree from a college or university within the United States that is authorized to grant a bachelor's degree by the law of the state in which it is located. Once enrolled, a participant must comply with Rule 7 of the Rules of Admission.
3. Rule 13 sets out the requirements to apply for admission by transferred UBE score. Some highlights:
 - (a) An applicant must complete all application forms required by Vermont, including the NCBE Standard Character & Fitness Application, and must arrange for the NCBE to transfer the Applicant's UBE score to Vermont.
 - (b) An applicant must have earned a UBE score of 270 or higher either: (1) in an administration of the UBE which occurred within 3 years before the date on which the application for admission by transferred UBE score was filed; or (2) in an administration of the UBE which occurred more than 3 years but less than 5 years before the date of filing of the application for admission by transferred UBE score, and been Actively Engaged in the Practice of Law for at least 2 years in another U.S. jurisdiction in which the applicant was a member in good standing.
 - (c) An applicant must have achieved a score of at least 270 within no more than 4 sittings for the UBE.
 - (d) An applicant must have achieved a score of at least 270 at an administration of the UBE no later than 5 years after graduating from law school or completing the Law Office Study program.
 - (e) An applicant must have achieved a scaled score of 80 or higher on the MPRE no earlier than 3 years before the date on which the application for admission by transferred UBE score was filed.
 - (f) An applicant must comply with Rule 13(g) and Rule 12.

Application for Admission without Examination

Rules 14 and 15 set out the general requirements to apply for admission without examination. Some highlights:

- (a) An applicant must not have failed the Vermont bar exam within the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.
- (b) An applicant must not have scored lower than 270 on any administration of the UBE within the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.
- (c) An applicant must be currently licensed in another US jurisdiction, in good standing, and not suspended or disbarred.
- (d) An applicant must have been actively engaged in the practice of law for 5 of the 10 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.
 - a. Exception: attorneys admitted in New Hampshire & Maine must have been actively engaged in the practice of law for no less than the 3 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.
- (e) An applicant must comply with Rule 15(c).