

# Applying to take the California Bar Exam

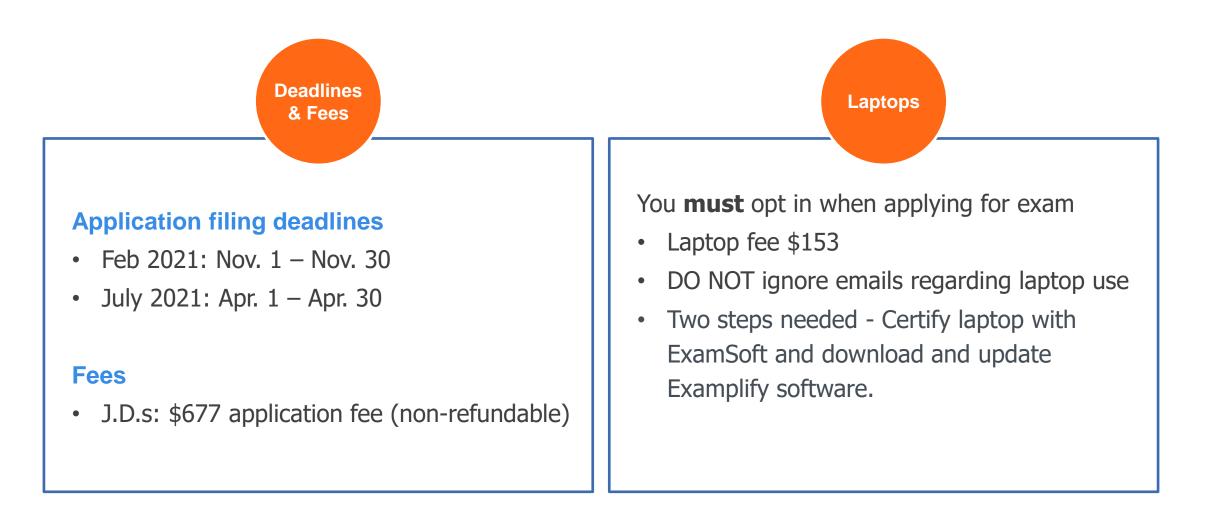


### Requirements to become a California licensed attorney

- 1. Register as a law student or attorney applicant not the same as applying for the exam
- 2. Legal education
- 3. First Year Law Students' Examination
- 4. Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) passing score of scaled 86
- 5. California Bar Exam Passing score of scaled 1390
- 6. Moral Character Determination (not required to take exam, but required for admission to practice)



# Applying to take the California Bar Exam



## Where Will I Sit for the California Bar Exam?

#### CA Bar Exam

• J.D. students will be asked to list three locations in which they would like to sit for the exam in order of priority. The CA Bar Examiners will do their best to get each applicant a spot at their first choice, but not a guarantee.

#### Locations:

- LA Ontario, Pasadena, \*Anaheim, Orange, Culver City
- SD T&C Convention Center, Mission Valley
- SF Oakland, \*Santa Clara, SFO
- Sacramento Convention Center, Arden West, \*Roseville
- Palm Springs \*Convention Center
- Please note that these are just past locations and are subject to change especially those marked with a (\*).





# Details of the exam

#### The California Bar Exam:

	Morning: 1		Afternoon:			
Day 1: CA Essay Day	Three 1-hour essays Total Time = 3 hours	H O	Two 1-hour essays Once 90-minute PT Total time = 3.5 hours			
Day 2: MBE	100 multiple-choice questions Total time = 3 hours	R	100 multiple-choice questions Total time = 3 hours			

- Dates: February 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>; July 27<sup>th</sup> & July 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Passing score: 1390** (after being scaled)
  - 50% written, 50% MBE

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• Above average scores in one area can counteract below average scores in another



# Day 1: Tuesday Morning

# CA Written Day

#### Morning session: 3 hours

#### 3 Essay questions

- Receive all essays at same time
- 1 hour per question
- Each essay tests 1 2 subjects with multiple issues
- We provide Essay Topic Frequency Chart

**Subjects Tested:** Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), CA Civ Pro, CA Community Property, CA Evidence, CA Professional Responsibility, Remedies, Trusts, CA Wills & Succession Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts.





# Day 1: Tuesday Afternoon

# CA Written Day

### Afternoon session: 3 hours

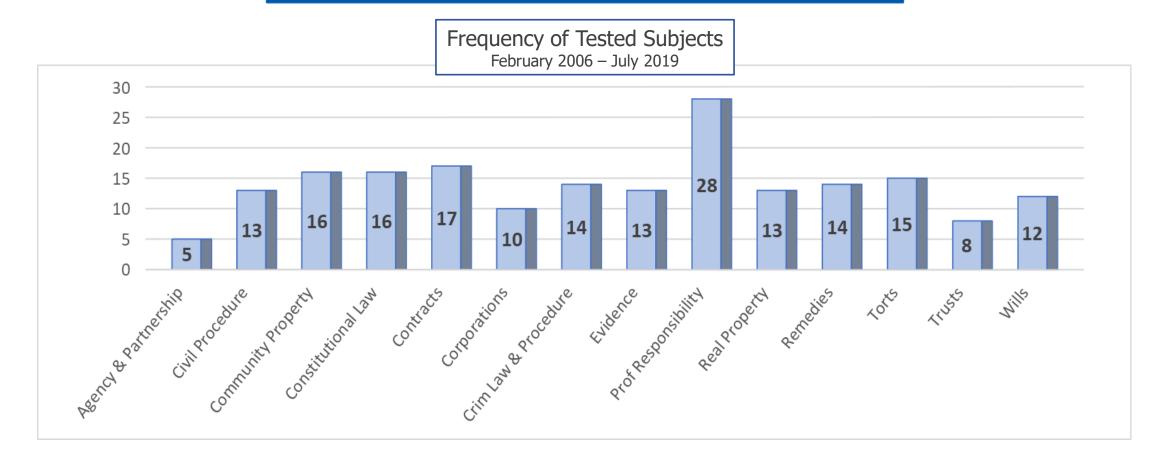
#### • Two 1-hour Essays

- Same format as morning session
- One 90 min CA PT
  - "Think like a lawyer" section
  - Closed Universe You are not required to know any law; file and library are given to you
  - 90 min to complete



# The California Essay Exam – 36% of your score

5 essays in 14 subject areas (3 in a.m. and 2 in p.m.)





# The California Essay Exam

Blackacre, which is immediately to the west of Whiteacre, is bounded on its west by a state highway. Whiteacre is bounded on the east by a county road. Both roads connect to a four- lane highway.

Twenty years ago, Tom, who then owned Blackacre, sold to Sue, who then owned White- acre, an easement over a private gravel road that crossed Blackacre. This easement allowed Sue significantly better access to the four-lane highway from Whiteacre than she had had using only the county road adjacent to Whiteacre. The easement was promptly and properly recorded.

After acquiring this easement, Sue discontinued using the county road to the east of White- acre and used the private gravel road crossing Blackacre to travel between Whiteacre and the four-lane highway. Sue used the private gravel road across Blackacre for that purpose almost every day for the next 18 years.

Fifteen years ago, Sue purchased Blackacre from Tom. The deed from Tom to Sue was promptly and properly recorded.

Two years ago, Sue sold Whiteacre to Dan. The deed from Sue to Dan, which was promptly and properly recorded, did not mention the private gravel road crossing Blackacre, although Dan was aware that Sue had used the road to more easily access the four-lane highway.

Following the purchase of Whiteacre, Dan obtained a construction loan from Bank secured by a mortgage on Whiteacre. This mortgage was promptly and properly recorded. The loan commitment, in the amount of \$1,500,000, which was reflected in the mortgage, obligated Bank to loan Dan \$300,000 immediately. It further obligated Bank to loan Dan an additional \$500,000 in 180 days and \$700,000 in 280 days. Following the purchase of Whiteacre, Dan obtained a construction loan from Bank secured by a mortgage on Whiteacre. This mortgage was promptly and properly recorded. The loan commitment, in the amount of \$1,500,000, which was reflected in the mortgage, obligated Bank to loan Dan \$300,000 immediately. It further obligated Bank to loan Dan an additional \$500,000 in 180 days and \$700,000 in 280 days

After obtaining the second loan installment from Bank, Dan realized that he would need additional funds and borrowed \$400,000 from Finance Company. This loan was also secured by a mortgage on Whiteacre. Upon Dan's signing the note and mortgage, Finance Company immediately remitted the \$400,000 to Dan and promptly and properly recorded its mortgage.

Thereafter, Bank advanced the final \$700,000 loan installment to Dan.

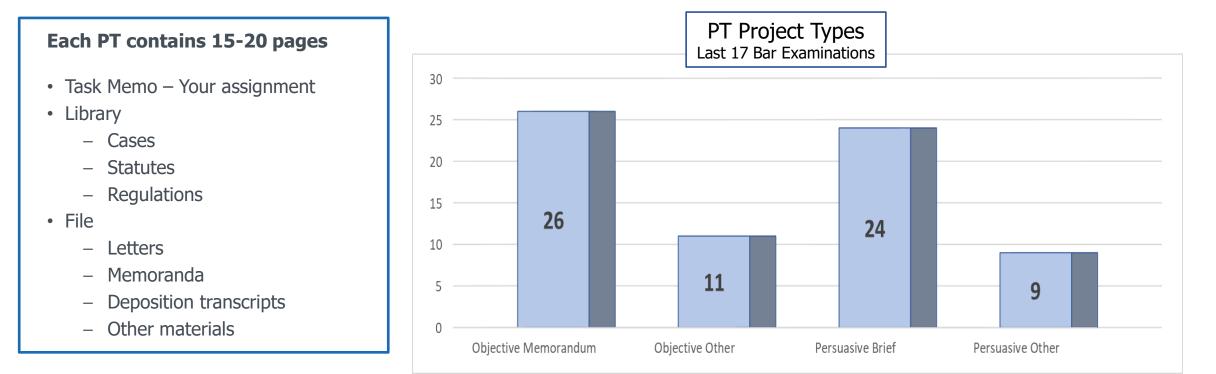
Recently, Dan defaulted on the loans from both Bank and Finance Company. At the time of these defaults, Dan owed \$1,500,000 to Bank and \$400,000 to Finance Company.

At a proper foreclosure sale by Bank, Whiteacre was sold for \$1,500,000 net of sale expenses.

- 1. Immediately before Sue sold Whiteacre to Dan, did Sue have an easement over Black- acre? Explain.
- 2. Immediately after Sue sold Whiteacre to Dan, did Dan have an easement over Black- acre? Explain.
- 3. How should the proceeds from the sale of Whiteacre be distributed between Bank and Finance Company? Explain.

# The California Performance Test – 14% of your score

One 90-minute closed-universe legal research & writing project



#### How are essays scored?

- Examiners are looking for:
  - Answer must show knowledge and understanding of pertinent principles and theories of law, their qualifications and limitations, and their relationships to each other
    - Ability to analyze facts in the question; discern material vs. immaterial
    - Apply relevant points of law
    - Identify facts upon which the case turns
- Graded on a 100-point scale
  - Scores are awarded in 5-point increments



### How is the CPT scored?

- Examiners are looking for:
  - Compliance with instructions and on answer's content, thoroughness, and organization
  - Ability to analyze legal issues:
    - Sift through factual material, discern relevant from irrelevant facts
    - Determine need for and source of additional facts
    - Analyze legal rules and principles, formulate legal theories based on developing knowledge of facts
    - Apply problem-solving skills: identify problem, generate solutions, develop a plan of action
- Graded on a 100-point scale
  - Scores are awarded in 5-point increments



#### CA Bar Score Report

- Accuracy of grammar and spelling is not considered
  - Neither is handwriting
- PT score is DOUBLED
- Raw score is scaled to a 2,000-point score
- Second read only if **total** scaled score is at least 1350 but less than 1390

WRITTEN Essay 1: Essay 2: Essay 3: Essay 4: Essay 5: PT:	<b>1st Read</b> 65.0 65.0 55.0 60.0 65.0	<b>2nd Read</b> 65.0 60.0 60.0 55.0 60.0 60.0	<b>Operant</b> <b>Grade</b> 65.0 62.5 62.5 55.0 60.0 62.5	MBE Percent Below Civil Procedure: Constitutional Law: Contracts: Criminal Law: Evidence: Real Property: Torts:	28.3 32.5 45.7 57.5 25.0 44.3 13.5
Raw Written Scaled Writte Scaled MBE	en: 1446.70			Local: National:	32.9 36.1
TOTAL SC.	ALED SCC	<b>RE:</b> 1393	.8540		



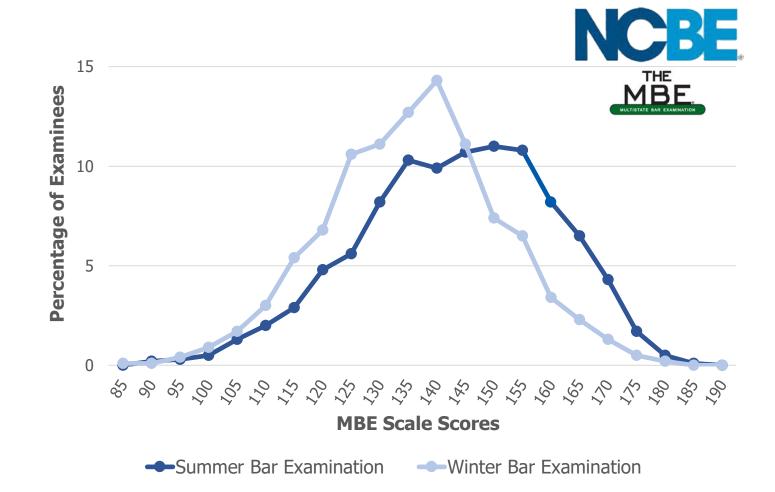
# The Multistate Bar Exam – 50% of your score

#### **200** multiple-choice questions

#### **Seven subjects**

- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Real Property
- Torts

Average scaled score is less than 70%





## The Multistate Bar Exam

A homeowner offered a landscape gardener \$1,000 to trim and reshape the bushes on her property if the gardener could finish the job before her garden party on June 1. The gardener told the homeowner that he would get back to her after he had checked his calendar. The next day, the gardener phoned the homeowner, who was not at home, and left a message on her voicemail that he had the time, but could not do the job for less than \$1,200. The gardener did not hear from the homeowner for several days.

As June 1 drew closer, the gardener phoned the homeowner again and left another message on her voicemail stating that "I'll do the job for \$1,000, this weekend, unless that would be inconvenient." The homeowner replayed the second message just as she was leaving town on a business trip and did not contact the gardener. That weekend, unbeknownst to the homeowner, the gardener took his tools to the homeowner's house and trimmed and reshaped the bushes to the homeowner's specifications. When the homeowner returned from her trip several days later, the gardener presented her with a handwritten invoice for \$1,000.

If the homeowner refuses to pay the gardener, and the latter brings an action solely for breach of contract to recover the \$1,000 contract amount, who will likely prevail?

А	The gardener, because the homeowner knew of the gardener's plans to do the landscaping job ove the weekend in question, putting the burden on the homeowner to call off the job if she did not want the gardener to perform.
В	The gardener, because this was a unilateral contract, the terms of which the gardener accepted by performing his duties under the contract.
С	The homeowner, because she revoked her offer when she ignored the gardener's subsequent phone calls agreeing to do the job at the original price.
D	The homeowner, because she did not accept the gardener's offer to do the landscaping job for \$1,000.

# The Multistate Bar Exam

#### the gardener to perform.

×B	The gardener, because this was a unilateral contract, the terms of which the gardener accepted by performing his duties under the contract.
С	The homeowner, because she revoked her offer when she ignored the gardener's subsequent phone calls agreeing to do the job at the original price.

✓ D The homeowner, because she did not accept the gardener's offer to do the landscaping job for \$1,000.

#### Answer Discussion - Incorrect

The homeowner will likely prevail on the breach of contract claim because she did not enter into a contract with the gardener. To form a contract, there must be a valid offer and acceptance. The homeowner made an offer, but the gardener rejected the offer the next day with his first phone call. Once an offer is rejected, the offeree's power of acceptance is destroyed. Thus, the gardener's second call was not an acceptance, but rather a counteroffer. The homeowner did nothing to accept the gardener's counteroffer, and this is not the type of case where silence will be deemed to be an acceptance (e.g., where the parties have so agreed or where that has been their course of dealing). Thus, there was no acceptance and no contract to breach. (A) is incorrect because an offeree cannot be forced to speak under penalty of having silence treated as an acceptance. If an offeree silently takes offered benefits, the courts will often find acceptance, especially if prior dealings between the parties, or trade practices known to both parties, create a commercially reasonable expectation by the offeror that silence represents an acceptance; in such cases, the offeree is under a duty to notify the offeror if she does not intend to accept. As discussed above, the gardener rejected the initial offer and made a counteroffer, putting the homeowner in the position of offeree. The homeowner's silence cannot be construed as acceptance absent a showing of prior dealings between the parties or trade practices known to both. Moreover, the gardener's last phone call to the homeowner was somewhat ambiguous, and the homeowner could argue that she did not know with certainty that the gardener would still perform the job after getting no response. Further, she was not home that weekend and, therefore, did not stand idly by and knowingly accept the gardener's work. (B) is incorrect because this was not a unilateral contract. A unilateral contract exists only when an offeror makes acceptance possible only by performing a stipulated act, whereas a bilateral contract contemplates an exchange of promises. Here, the homeowner asked the gardener whether he would perform an act and expected a reply from the gardener; indeed, the gardener told the homeowner that he would telephone her with his answer the next day, which he did (in effect, rejecting the offer). Thus, this was not a unilateral contract that could properly be accepted through performance. (C) is incorrect because the gardener's power of acceptance was destroyed when he rejected the homeowner's offer, as discussed above, and once that occurred, the offer was gone and could not be revoked.

What data tells us about studying for & passing the bar exam





You have to put in the time The Personal Study Plan contains ~40 hours of assignments & activities spread out across 10 weeks

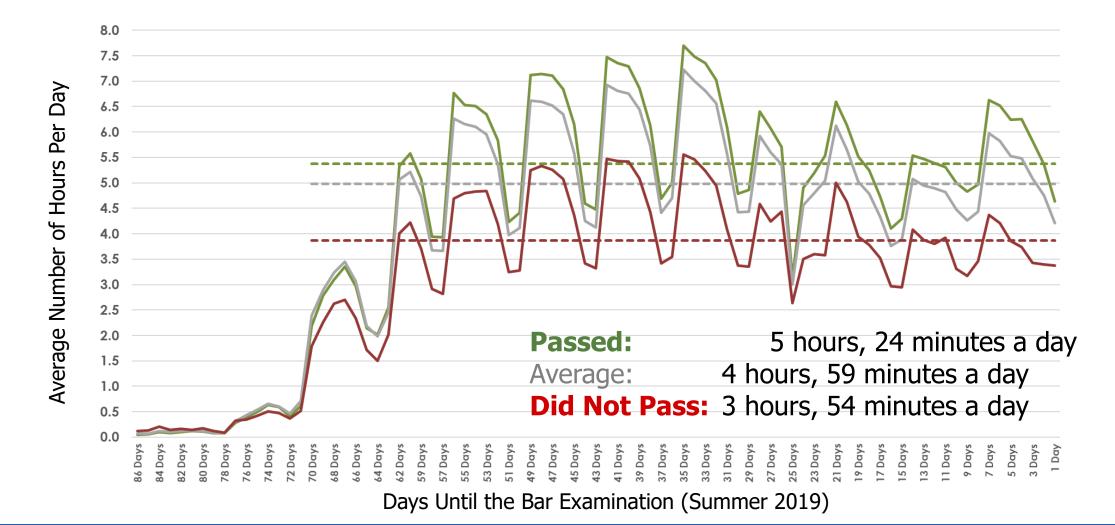
That's...

40 hours a week

8 Hours a day (weekends off)

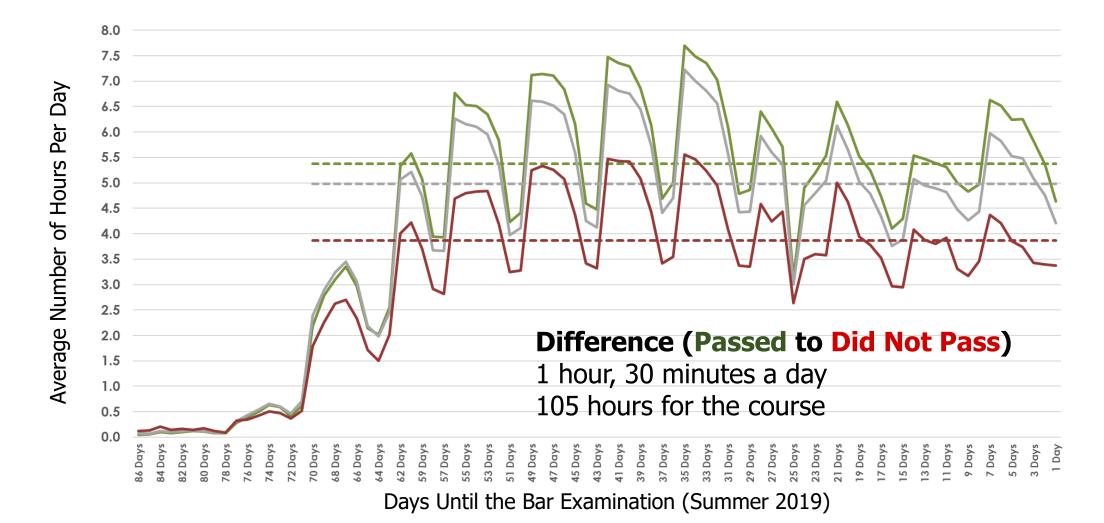


## Average hours completed per student per day



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# Everything you do in the course matters

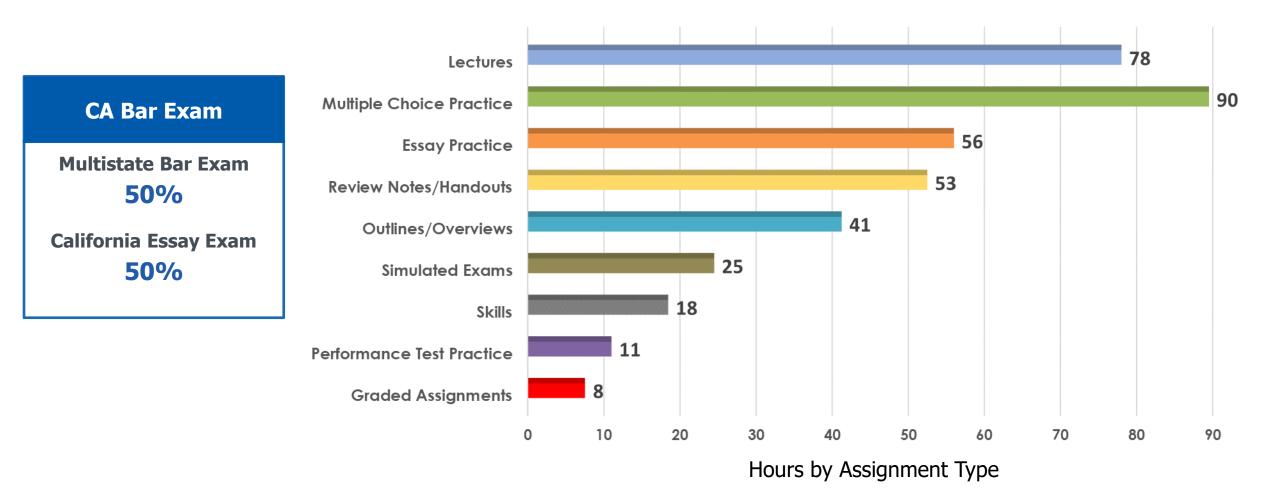
	Pearson Correlations – Summer and Winter Combined						
Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015-2019	2015-2019
All Assignments	.359**	.359**	.363**	.376**	.398**	.368**	96,664
					·		
Prepare for Class	.212**	.183**	.188**	.113**	.292**	.146**	95,696
Review Outlines and Notes and Read	.285**	.256**	.280**	.309**	.328**	.286**	96,664
Lectures	.309**	.343**	.319**	.301**	.342**	.317**	96,664
Diagnostic Assessments	.347**	.301**	.320**	.352**	.374**	.335**	96,602
Multiple-Choice Practice Questions	.378**	.392**	.394**	.421**	.425**	.361**	94,062
Essay Architect	.183**	.200**	.226**	.195**	.216**	.200**	94,083
Practice Essays	.261**	.267**	.278**	.270**	.294**	.274**	96,664
Graded Essays	.106**	.224**	.188**	.158**	.178**	.161**	96,601
Practice Performance Tests	.211**	.189**	.199**	.276**	.261**	.225**	81,925
Graded Performance Tests	.075**	.205**	.217**	.248**	.255**	.173**	82,024
Taking the Simulated MBE	.276**	.297**	.322**	.286**	.319**	.299**	96,664
Simulated MBE Composite Score	.414**	.423**	.422**	.439**	.413**	.421**	77,208
Civil Procedure (J)	.338**	.342**	.363**	.364**	.384**	.355**	77,208
Constitutional Law (L)	.351**	.355**	.357**	.363**	.350**	.355**	77,208
Contracts (K)	.302**	.316**	.309**	.337**	.330**	.318**	77,208
Criminal Law and Procedure	.280**	.300**	.296**	.316**	.263**	.291**	77,208
Evidence (E)	.360**	.357**	.367**	.376**	.359**	.362**	77,208
Real Property (P)	.353**	.368**	.347**	.370**	.337**	.355**	77,208
Torts (T)	.254**	.263**	.258**	.235**	.265**	.254**	77,208

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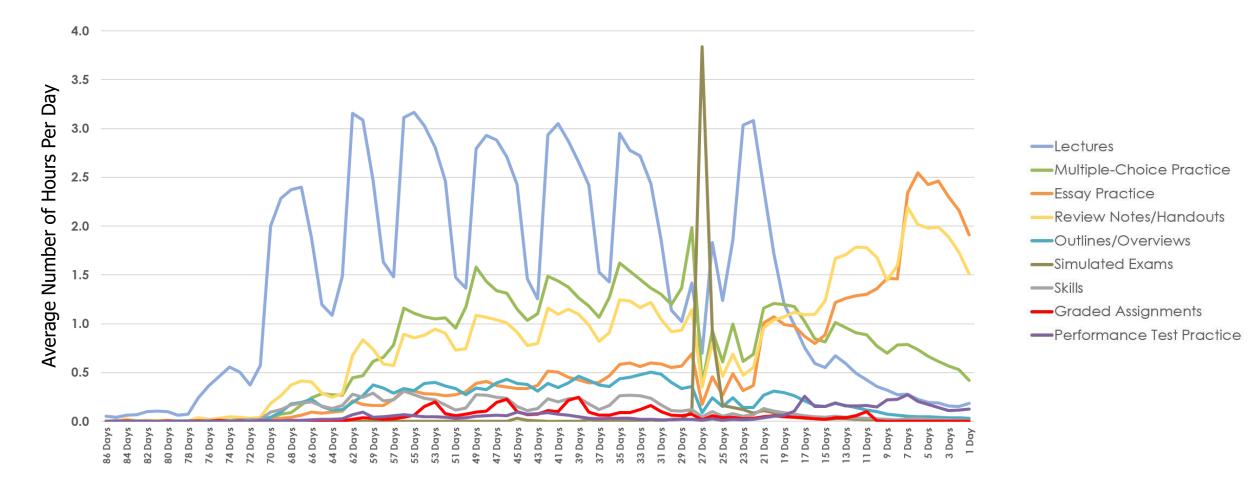
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# What you are going to be doing





## Average hours completed per student per day



Days Until the Bar Examination



# Maximizing your potential to succeed

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What if I get into a time crunch?

What if I am significantly under performing in a particular subject or component of the bar examination (e.g., the MBE, MEE, or MPT)?



#### Intuitive Study Assistant and Coach (ISAAC)

Adaptive recommendation engine used throughout the course to maximize your probability of passing the bar examination

isaac



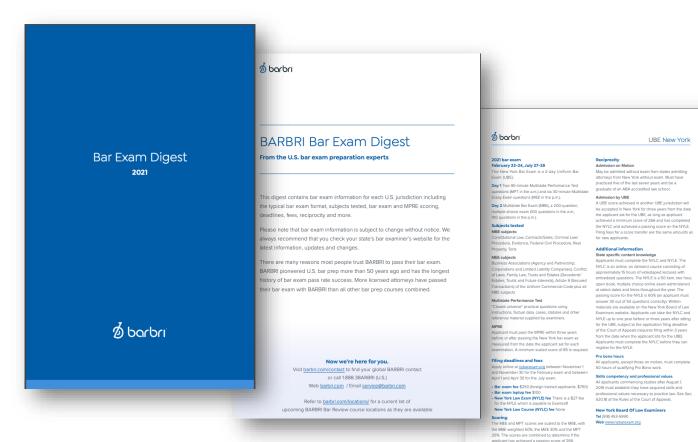


# Resources



# How do I remember all of this?

- BARBRI Bar Exam Digest
  - barbri.com/bar-exam-digest
- State Bar of CA website
  - Admissions
  - www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions



You will overcome the challenges of the bar exam





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Because passing the bar is everything

