

CHART 4: Foreign Legal Education

Jurisdiction	Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission by examination?		If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible for admission by examination under your rules, are any of the following required?					If a foreign law school graduate obtains an LL.M. or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar exam on this basis alone?		
			Legal education in English common law	Additional education at an ABA-approved law school	Practice of law in foreign jurisdiction	Determination of educational equivalency	Admission in another U.S. jurisdiction	Yes	No	
	Yes	No							Yes	No
Alabama	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
Alaska	X		X	X		X	X			X
Arizona		X								X
Arkansas		X								X
California	X			X	X	X	X	X		
Colorado	X		X		X					X
Connecticut	X			X		X				X
Delaware		X								X
District of Columbia	X			X						X
Florida	X						X			X
Georgia	X			X	X					X
Hawaii	X		X		X					X
Idaho		X								X
Illinois	X				X	X				X
Indiana		X								X
Iowa		X								X
Kansas		X								X
Kentucky	X				X	X				X
Louisiana	X			X		X				X
Maine	X				X	X				X
Maryland	X			X			X			X
Massachusetts	X			X		X				X
Michigan		X								X
Minnesota		X								X
Mississippi		X								X
Missouri	X			X	X		X			X
Montana		X								X
Nebraska		X								X
Nevada	X					X				X
New Hampshire	X		X			X				X
New Jersey		X								X
New Mexico	X						X			X
New York	X			X		X		X		
North Carolina	X						X			X
North Dakota		X								X
Ohio	X			X		X				X

(continued)

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	Yes	No	Legal education in English common law	Additional education at an ABA-approved law school	Practice of law in foreign jurisdiction	Determination of educational equivalency	Admission in another U.S. jurisdiction	Yes	No
Oklahoma		X							X
Oregon	X		X		X	X			X
Pennsylvania	X			X	X				X
Rhode Island	X						X		X
South Carolina		X							X
South Dakota	X						X		X
Tennessee	X			X	X	X			X
Texas	X			X	X				X
Utah	X		X	X	X				X
Vermont	X		X			X		X	
Virginia		X							X
Washington	X			X	X			X	
West Virginia	X		X	X		X			X
Wisconsin	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Wyoming		X							X
Guam		X							X
Northern Mariana Islands		X							X
Palau		X						X	
Puerto Rico		X							X
Virgin Islands	X						X		X

Supplemental Remarks

Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission by examination?

Alabama Applicant must meet and show proof of the following requirements: (a) that the foreign law school from which the applicant graduated was approved in the foreign jurisdiction where it is located; (b) that the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law in the jurisdiction in which that university or college is located; and (c) at least one of the following: (i) that the law degree program completed by the applicant includes a substantial component of English common law; or (ii) that the applicant has satisfactorily completed at least 24 semester hours of legal subjects covered by the bar examination in regular law school classes, under ABA standards; or (iii) that the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law before the court of highest jurisdiction in a U.S. jurisdiction, has been continuously engaged in the active practice of law for at least 3 years in that jurisdiction, and is a member in good standing of the bar of that jurisdiction.

Alaska A graduate of a foreign law school in which the principles of English law are taught may be eligible to take the bar exam if he or she submits proof that 1) the law school from which he/she graduated meets the ABA's standards for approval; and 2) he/she has successfully completed 1 year at an ABA-approved law school, including successful completion of 1 course in U.S. Constitutional Law and 1 course in U.S. Civil Procedure, or is a member in good standing of the bar of 1 or more states, territories, or the District of Columbia and was admitted to the bar of that state, territory, or the District of Columbia after written examination.

California Foreign law school graduates must request individual evaluation to determine legal education equivalency. Graduates from foreign law schools may qualify to take the California bar exam if they obtain an LL.M. degree or complete an additional 1 year of law study at an ABA-approved or California-accredited law school which includes a certain number of credits in bar examination subject matter. Foreign-educated law students who did not graduate are not eligible to take the exam and are required to either graduate with a J.D. degree at an ABA-approved or California-accredited law school or complete 4 years of law study at a law school registered in California and pass the First-Year Law Students' Exam. Foreign law school graduates who are admitted to the active practice of law in good standing in their countries do not have to complete any additional law study to qualify to take the bar exam.

Colorado Must have been primarily engaged in the active practice of law for 3 of the previous 5 years in jurisdictions where admitted.

Connecticut Foreign law school graduates must submit a petition for determination on foreign education and receive Bar Examining Committee approval prior to submitting an application for admission by examination, admission without examination, or admission by UBE score transfer. The foreign education must be substantially equivalent in duration to the legal education provided by an ABA-approved law school. Foreign-educated applicants must complete an LL.M. degree program meeting specific requirements at an ABA- or Committee-approved law school prior to admission. An applicant who otherwise does not meet the educational requirements may be eligible to sit for the exam if he/she meets certain conditions. Conditions include admission before the highest court of original jurisdiction in a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a U.S. District Court for 10 or more years, good standing in such jurisdiction, active practice of law in that jurisdiction for 5 of the last 7 years, and an intention to actively practice law in Connecticut and to devote a majority of his/her work to such practice.

District of Columbia Applicant may be permitted to take the bar examination upon successful completion of at least 26 semester hours of study in subjects tested on the bar examination in a law school that at the time of such study was ABA-approved. All such 26 semester hours shall be earned in courses of study, each of which is substantially concentrated on a single tested subject. Classes that began before March 1, 2016, will count towards this total if they were in subjects tested on the DC bar exam through February 2016. Classes beginning after March 1, 2016, will count towards the total if they are in subjects tested on the Uniform Bar Examination.

Florida After 10 years' active practice in another jurisdiction (District of Columbia or other states in the United States or in federal courts in the United States or its territories, possessions, or protectorates) in which applicant has been duly admitted, the applicant may file a representative compilation of work product for evaluation by the Board.

Georgia A lawyer educated at a law school outside of the United States may meet the educational requirements and be eligible to take the exam if the foreign-educated lawyer graduated from a foreign law school that meets the requirements of the Rules; is authorized to practice law in the foreign jurisdiction; and has been awarded, by an ABA-approved law school, an LL.M. that meets the Curricular Criteria for LL.M. Program for the Practice of Law in the United States adopted by the Board of Bar Examiners. Foreign law school graduates who have not obtained an LL.M., or whose LL.M. programs do not meet the Board's Curricular Criteria, may also apply for a waiver of the ABA-approved law school graduation requirement. Published waiver policy lists criteria considered by the Board in determining whether waiver standard has been met.

Hawaii An attorney admitted to practice and in good standing before the highest court in a foreign country where English common law is the basis of that country's jurisprudence and where English is the language of instruction and practice in the courts of that jurisdiction shall be eligible for examination and admission if he or she presents satisfactory proof to have actively practiced law in that jurisdiction for 5 of the 6 years immediately prior to application.

Illinois The foreign law school graduate must have been licensed to practice in the country in which the degree was conferred and/or in a U.S. jurisdiction for a minimum of 5 years; the lawyer must be in good standing as an attorney or equivalent in that country or U.S. jurisdiction where admitted; during each of no fewer than 5 of the 7 years immediately prior to making application in Illinois, the lawyer must have verifiably devoted an annual minimum of 1,000 hours to the practice of law in such country and/or U.S. jurisdiction where licensed; and applicant must achieve passing score on MPRE and meet character and fitness standards.

Kentucky An attorney who is a graduate of a foreign law school can apply for an education evaluation to determine if applicant's legal education is substantially equivalent to the Kentucky law school education. If the law school is approved, the applicant may sit for the bar exam if he/she has been actively and substantially engaged in the practice of law for 3 of the last 5 years.

Louisiana Foreign attorneys can apply to take the bar exam but must first have an educational equivalency evaluation conducted and complete 14 hours at an American law school.

Maine Must satisfy requirements of Regulation for Determining Equivalency of Foreign Legal Education and have practiced for 3 years in the jurisdiction where licensed.

Maryland A graduate of a foreign law school may qualify for a waiver to take the UBE in Maryland if he or she has been admitted by examination in another U.S. jurisdiction or has completed an additional law degree at an ABA-approved law school where at least 24 credits in subjects tested on the UBE are earned in the course of completing the degree.

Massachusetts A graduate from a foreign law school (other than those Canadian law schools that are prequalified) may be permitted to sit for the bar exam after taking further legal studies designated by the Board at an ABA-approved law school or a Massachusetts-accredited law school. Foreign law school graduates must obtain a determination of their educational equivalency from the Board prior to making application.

Missouri Graduates who have passed the bar exam in another state and hold an active law license are eligible to take the bar exam with either (1) full-time practice for 3 of the 5 years preceding application or (2) completion of 24 credit hours in residence at an ABA-approved law school within the 3 years prior to application. Graduates who are not licensed in another state must be admitted to practice law in the foreign country where the foreign law degree was conferred and be in good standing with either (1) full-time practice for 3 of the 5 years preceding the application or (2) completion of 24 credit hours in residence at an ABA-approved law school within the 3 years prior to application or (3) completion of an LL.M. degree from an ABA-approved law school.

New Hampshire Graduate must be legally trained in common law, and a determination of educational equivalency is required. Graduate must be a member in good standing in home jurisdiction or in another state, after being admitted by exam.

New Mexico Graduates of foreign law schools may write the examination, transfer an eligible Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) score, or apply for admission without examination if they are licensed and in good standing in another U.S. state and have engaged in the active practice of law in the state where admitted for 4 of the 6 years prior to application to sit for the examination or transfer the UBE score or 5 of the 7 years prior to application for admission without examination.

New York Applicant must complete period of law study equivalent in duration and substance to that specified in New York rules in law school recognized by competent accrediting agency of the government of such foreign country. All applicants must have their transcripts evaluated by the Board of Law Examiners to determine if further study is required in the form of a qualifying LL.M. degree from an ABA-approved law school in the United States.

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Supplemental Remarks (continued)

North Carolina The applicant must meet the requirements set out in at least one of the following paragraphs: (1) hold an LL.B. or J.D. degree from a law school approved by the ABA at the time the degree was conferred; (2) have received prior to August 1995 an LL.B., J.D., LL.M., or S.J.D. degree from a law school approved by the council of the North Carolina State Bar at the time the degree was conferred; (3) have received prior to August 2005 an LL.M. or S.J.D. degree from a law school that was approved by the ABA at the time the degree was conferred; or (4) hold an LL.B. or J.D. degree from a law school that was approved for licensure purposes in another state of the United States or the District of Columbia and be licensed in such state or District.

Ohio If an applicant's legal education was not received in the United States, the education must be evaluated and approved by the Supreme Court as equivalent to ABA-approved law school education. For equivalency, an applicant must show successful completion of 30 credit hours at an ABA-approved law school in addition to a foreign law degree showing at least 3 years of full-time study. The registration application may not be processed until the education is approved by the Supreme Court. At least 3 additional years of full-time post-secondary education are required.

Oregon Applicants who have graduated from a law school in a foreign jurisdiction have the burden of proving (1) that the requirements for admission to practice are substantially equivalent to those of Oregon, (2) that the applicant is currently admitted to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction where the Common Law of England exists as a basis of its jurisprudence, and (3) that the applicant is a graduate of a law school equivalent to a law school approved by the ABA. The Oregon Board of Bar Examiners may require that the applicant's law school education be evaluated by a commercial evaluator of the Board's choosing at the applicant's expense.

Pennsylvania Applicant must have completed law study in a foreign law school, have been admitted and in good standing at the bar of a foreign jurisdiction, and have practiced in the jurisdiction for 5 out of the last 8 years. Applicant must also complete 24 credit hours taken in specified subjects at an ABA-approved law school.

Rhode Island Foreign-educated applicants who are admitted in another U.S. jurisdiction may apply for admission under Article II, Rule 2(a) (attorney admission on examination).

South Dakota An applicant for admission who is a graduate of a foreign law school not accredited by the ABA may apply for permission to take the South Dakota Bar Examination upon good cause if the graduate has passed the bar examination in another state and is a member in good standing of that state.

Tennessee A foreign-educated applicant has two paths to eligibility: one is based solely on education and the other requires education plus experience and a U.S. LL.M. degree. An applicant will be eligible for the examination on education alone if the applicant's education is accredited by the appropriate agency in the foreign country and is substantially equivalent to that required of applicants educated in the U.S. (a bachelor's degree or higher and a J.D. degree, earned in one or more degrees in the foreign country). A comprehensive educational equivalency evaluation for professional licensing by an organization that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services must be provided to the Board with the application. If educational equivalency is not met, an applicant may be eligible if, in addition to a foreign legal education at an accredited school, the applicant is licensed in the country in which the applicant was educated and has been engaged in the active practice of law in that country for 5 of the 8 years preceding the application, and the applicant has been awarded an LL.M. from an ABA-accredited law school in the United States. (See Board Policy P-7.01 at <http://www.tnble.org/tn-supreme-court-rule-7>.)

Texas An applicant with an initial law degree from a foreign law school not based on English common law must, in part, be authorized to practice law and have a qualifying LL.M. degree. An applicant with an initial law degree from a foreign law school based on English common law must, in part, either have a qualifying LL.M. degree or satisfy a 3-year practice requirement.

Utah A foreign lawyer with a law degree from an English common-law jurisdiction may sit for the bar exam after being admitted and practicing law for 2 years in a common-law jurisdiction and completing 24 semester hours at an ABA-approved law school.

Vermont A foreign law school graduate is eligible to take the bar examination if the applicant (1) has completed a legal education at a foreign law school whose curriculum provided training in a system based on the common law of England and that is otherwise equivalent to graduation from an approved law school, as determined by the equivalency determination process; and (2) has been admitted to the bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the country in which the applicant attended the foreign law school and has maintained good standing in that bar or resigned from that bar while still in good standing.

Washington An applicant with a foreign law degree that would qualify the applicant to practice law in that jurisdiction is eligible if an LL.M. "for the practice of law" is obtained from an ABA-approved law school. The LL.M. must meet the requirements of Washington's APR 3. However, foreign lawyers from English common law jurisdictions are eligible without an LL.M. if they are currently admitted and have active legal experience in the common law jurisdiction for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the application.

West Virginia Applicant may sit for examination or qualify for admission on motion if a law school graduate from a foreign country where the common law of England forms basis of jurisprudence, if educational requirements for admission in said country are substantially the same as in West Virginia and applicant is admitted in good standing there, and if applicant successfully completes 30 credit hours of basic courses at an ABA-approved law school.

Wisconsin First degree of law and license to practice law from English common law jurisdiction and practice for at least 3 of last 10 years, or first degree of law from qualified and approved foreign law school and completion of an approved master of law program from an ABA-approved law school.

Palau If applicant does not meet the educational requirement, he or she may not take the bar exam without obtaining a waiver. Applicant may request a waiver by submitting a petition demonstrating a legal education preparing him or her to pass the bar examination.

Puerto Rico Applicant must validate his or her studies and obtain a law degree from a law school approved by the ABA and by the Supreme Court.

Virgin Islands Eligibility is limited to applicants who come in under special admission provisions as set forth in the rules.

If a foreign law school graduate obtains an LL.M. or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved law school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar examination on this basis alone?

California Applicant must have graduated and be eligible to take the admission exam in his/her foreign country and obtain an additional year of law study in certain courses at an ABA-approved or California-accredited law school in order to qualify to take the California Bar Exam.

Georgia A lawyer educated at a law school outside of the United States may meet the educational requirements and be eligible to take the exam if the foreign-educated lawyer graduated from a foreign law school that meets the requirements of the Rules; is authorized to practice law in the foreign jurisdiction; and has been awarded, by an ABA-approved law school, an LL.M. that meets the Curricular Criteria for LL.M. Program for the Practice of Law in the United States adopted by the Board of Bar Examiners.

Kentucky Applicant must still submit to education evaluation but additional degree has bearing on Board decision.

Maine Applicant's total education must be found to be substantially equivalent.

Massachusetts Not automatically, but depends on content (course of study) as well as other facts.

New Hampshire Not automatically. Applicant must meet other requirements for foreign law school graduates.

New York In most cases, but there are other factors.

Tennessee Applicant must prove that undergraduate and law school education are the equivalent of that required by an applicant who attended an ABA-accredited law school or Tennessee law school approved by the Board of Law Examiners. In addition to the LL.M., the applicant must be licensed in the country in which the applicant was educated and have been engaged in the active practice of law for 5 of the 8 years immediately preceding the application.

Vermont Graduates of foreign law schools that do not provide the equivalent of an education at an ABA-approved law school can cure that deficiency by obtaining an LL.M. degree at an ABA-approved law school, provided the LL.M. degree meets certain requirements pertaining to the amount and type of credit hours.

Washington An LL.M. degree for the practice of law must meet certain requirements.

Wisconsin Applicant must meet and show proof of the following requirements: (a) that the law school was approved in that foreign jurisdiction, (b) that the LL.M. program meets specific minimum requirements pertaining to total semester hours of credit, minutes of instruction, and duration of program, and (c) that the LL.M. program consists of a certain number of semester hours of specified courses. The LL.M. program must be located at an ABA-approved law school and be completed within 24 months of enrollment.