

Important Note: See <http://www.ble.state.tx.us/> for the most current information on admission to practice in Texas. The Board of Law Examiners' (BLE) website contains details on dates, deadlines, fees, and the full application process, and it also includes some past exams. *This course guide is no substitute for your own review of the requirements for admission to the State Bar of Texas.*

This course guide is intended to assist students in selecting a few courses that may help them pass the Texas bar exam, become a well-rounded lawyer, and perhaps also focus upon a field of interest. By combining this course guide with either information from a practice-area course guide or advice from a professor or practicing lawyer, students can strike a reasonable balance between their various curricular goals. *For most students, taking every available course related to the content of any state bar exam is both impractical and inadvisable.* At the same time, attention to preparedness for the exam is certainly important as students plan their schedules. More comments on balancing bar preparation with other goals can be found below the list of topics and courses. *In sum: plan carefully.*

The information below outlines the various portions of the Texas bar exam and indicates which LSU Law Center courses correspond most significantly with the subject matter coverage of the exam. Note that applicants must also take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE).

OUTLINE OF THE TEXAS BAR EXAM (parenthetical % indicates the relative value in the exam score)

DAY 1 (HALF DAY): Multistate Performance Test (10%)
Texas and Federal Civil and Criminal Procedure and Evidence (10%)
DAY 2 (FULL DAY): Multistate Bar Examination (40%)
DAY 3 (FULL DAY): Texas Essay Examination (40%)

For additional information, see <http://www.ble.state.tx.us/Rules/NewRules/CurrentRuleBook.pdf#page=48>.

MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATION (40%) (multiple-choice):

CIVIL PROCEDURE	Basic Civil Procedure I & II (5007 & 5017)(required, 1L) Federal Courts (5603)
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	Constitutional Law I (5008)(required, 1L) Constitutional Law II (5421) Federal Courts (5603) <i>Supplemental course:</i> Administrative Law (5402)
CONTRACTS	Contracts (5001)(required, 1L) Contracts II (5305) UCC Sales (5319)
CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE	Criminal Law (5009)(required, 1L) Admin. of Criminal Justice I (5010)(required, 1L) <i>Supplemental course:</i> Admin. of Criminal Justice II (5401)
EVIDENCE	Evidence (5605) (required course)
REAL PROPERTY	Common Law Property (5309) Real Estate Transactions (5530)
TORTS	Torts (5003)(required, 1L)

For a subject-matter outline, see <http://www.ncbex.org/pdfviewer/?file=%2Fdmsdocument%2F182>.

MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST (10%): The MPT is a skills test rather than a knowledge test. Based on a “file” containing research materials as well as source documents, the test-taker provides a written response to a task assigned in the “question,” which comes in the form of a memorandum from a supervising attorney. The form of the response varies, and might be a memorandum to the supervising attorney, a letter to a client, or a closing argument. More information on preparation is at: <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpt/preparing/>, and the skills tested are described at [MPT Skills Tested](#). Courses that focus on the basic skills that are central to successful performance on the MPT include:

LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING Legal Research & Writing I & II (5021, 5022)(1L)
Note: In addition to LR&W I & II, many advanced research, skills, clinical, externship, and trial advocacy courses provide opportunities to develop the skills that are tested on the MPT.

TEXAS AND FEDERAL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE (10%) (short-answer format):

CIVIL PROCEDURE	}	Federal: See courses listed under the relevant MBE topic.
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE		Texas: n/a
EVIDENCE		

TEXAS ESSAY EXAMINATION (40%) (number of questions in parentheses):

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS (2)	Business Associations I (5300)
UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE (2) (INCL. ARTS. 2 & 2A, 3 & 4, AND 9)	UCC Sales (5319) ¹ Payment Systems (5304) UCC Security Devices (5320)
REAL PROPERTY, INCL. OIL & GAS (2)	Common Law Property (5309) Mineral Rights (5205) <i>Supplemental course:</i> Real Estate Transactions (5530)
FAMILY LAW (INCL. MARITAL PROP.) (2)	<i>Helpful:</i> Matrimonial Regimes (5202) <i>Helpful:</i> Family Law of Persons (5208)
WILLS & ADMINISTRATION (2)	Common Law Trusts, Estates, Fiduciary Oblig.(5311)
TRUSTS & GUARDIANSHIP (1)	Common Law Trusts, Estates, Fiduciary Oblig.(5311) <i>Supplemental course:</i> Elder Law (5463) (Guardianship)
CONSUMER RIGHTS (1)	N/A
INCOME, ESTATE, & GIFT TAXATION (CROSSOVER) ²	Income Tax I (5501) <i>Supplemental course:</i> Estate Planning (5503)
BANKRUPTCY (CROSSOVER)	Bankruptcy (5710) UCC Security Devices (5320)

Most students have multiple, albeit related goals for their legal educations. Almost every student plans to take, and of course, to pass the state bar examination in at least one state. Another goal is to learn as much as possible about a field or fields of particular professional or personal interest—which may be outside the scope of any state bar examination (e.g., environmental law, intellectual-property law, immigration law, and more). A third goal is to obtain an overall well-rounded legal education that will equip the student for professional success, whether as a lawyer or non-lawyer. ***Balancing all of those goals requires careful planning.***

¹ Conventional wisdom related to the Texas bar exam is that the examiners tend to test Articles 3, 4, and 9 more heavily than Article 2. On the other hand, the MBE subject-matter outline indicates that approximately 25% of MBE Contracts questions will be based at least in part on UCC Article 2 and revised Article 1.

² A “crossover” topic on the Texas bar is a topic that is not separately tested but that is instead included as an element of questions in other subjects, such as family law, oil and gas, wills, real property, etc.