

Academic Success Program
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University of New Mexico School of Law

Budgeting for the Bar*

Bar Application Costs for New Mexico

(For [other jurisdictions](#), see their state board of bar examiners admissions information)

New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners

Application fee \$500 by filing deadline (Sept. 10th for Feb. 2017; Jan. 10th for July 2017)

Late fee – \$700 by Nov. 2nd for Feb 2017 Bar Exam; April 2nd for July 2017)

Final late fee - \$1000 by Jan. 2nd for Feb 2017 Bar Exam; June 2nd for July 2017

ExamSoft software laptop registration fee \$100 (payable to ExamSoft)

Applicants may write the exam instead of paying the fee for their laptop registration

The NM Bar does not provide computers

FBI & state background check and fingerprints - \$44 (payable to 3M Cogent)

Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) – required in New Mexico and most states

(Offered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners in August, November, and March)

MPRE Exam fee - \$84

MPRE Late fee - \$168

MPRE score reporting - \$25

Cost of Commercial Bar Exam Preparation

Commercial Bar Courses (such as BarBri, Kaplan, Themis) cost \$1500-\$4000

Contact Bar Course representatives for information on fees, payment plans, and locking in rates

Living Costs for 3-4 months After Graduation

Bar exam preparation is a full-time job

Estimate your own cost of living for three-four months after graduation

And *don't forget* about Commencement

Cap, gown, and hood - \$93

Any Bursars balance or unpaid parking tickets

Financial Aid

Talk to the financial aid office about bar scholarships and loans, as well as your cost of attendance for financial aid purposes. Understand your financial aid and budget wisely for the costs of bar preparation.

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Bar Examination Scholarships

Each year various sections of the New Mexico State Bar Association provide scholarships to graduating third year law students to aid in their preparation for the bar exam. These scholarships are provided directly to the students and are meant to help defray the costs of taking and studying for the exam.

For information on which sections of the State Bar and other Bar Associations offer bar scholarship opportunities for UNM School of Law students as well as requirements, please visit the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners [Resources for Examinees](#) on their website.

Bar Examination Loans

Some lenders offer [bar exam loans](#) which are designed to assist graduating law students in their efforts to finance bar exam-related expenses. While these loans are not part of your academic year financial aid, they still need to be certified by our financial aid office in order to verify that you are expected to graduate. The loan check will be mailed directly to you. Any documentation you need regarding graduation date can be obtained through the registrar.

Carefully research interest rates, repayment terms, application deadlines, and fees in order to decide which loan works best for you.

Note for People with Disabilities:

In [New Mexico, requests for Accommodations for the Bar Exam](#) must be made at the time of your application and must be supported by medical documentation. Consider any medical examination or documentation costs as part of your budgeting process. Contact [other states](#) and the [MPRE](#) for additional information on accommodations.

The bar examination is the most challenging time-intensive test that most people will take in their lifetime. If you have received accommodations in law school, or have a recently diagnosed disability, the bar examination is not a good time to decide to go without accommodations. If you suspect you have a learning disability, but cannot afford diagnostic testing, please contact Assistant Dean Heather Harrigan to discuss assistance with diagnostic services.

***Note: all costs are estimates based on current costs and available information. Consider cost increases over time and any personal circumstances that may increase costs (such as need for child care, technology, travel, parking, or other specific needs).**