

COVID-19 FAQs re: Administration of the Bar Exam in North Dakota in 2020

Applicants: As you read the following FAQs, we hope you take heart in the fact that the North Dakota Board of Law Examiners will do everything in its power to administer a bar exam in 2020.

Will the July bar exam be administered as scheduled?

North Dakota presently intends to administer the July Bar Exam on July 28-29, 2020. The July 2020 exam will be postponed if the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) postpones the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), or federal, state, and local public health orders or recommendations prevent us from administering the exam. Subject to the same caveats, if the July exam is postponed, North Dakota is committed to administering an examination September 9-10, 2020. If the July exam can be administered, no exam will be administered in September. All exams to be administered in Bismarck.

If the NCBE can facilitate administration of the July exam, will North Dakota definitely administer an exam?

Not necessarily, but we will do everything we can to administer a bar examination provided we can do so in a manner that complies with federal, state, and local public health orders or recommendations and we can do so in a manner that does not put our examinees, staff, or volunteers at unreasonable risk. We will continue to assess this situation. Keep in mind that social distancing orders or recommendations may be loosened or tightened as events unfold. Therefore, the exam may be canceled just days away from the exam dates due to events beyond our control.

Are there limitations on the number of test takers North Dakota can seat? If so, how are applicants being prioritized?

Yes. The number of examinees for the July exam will currently be limited to 85. Priority will be given first to those individuals already registered for the exam as of April 1, 2020. Second priority will be given to graduates of the University of North Dakota School of Law. Third priority will be given to other applicants, if there are seats remaining.

Will North Dakota offer a September 2020 exam?

If it is determined that the July exam cannot be administered, North Dakota will plan for an exam on September 9-10, 2020. A fall exam could be canceled due to federal, state, or local public health orders or recommendations preventing us from administering the exam or the Board determined administering the exam was not logistically feasible. If this should happen, the next exam will be administered in February 2021.

What happens to my July application if the July exam is postponed?

We will automatically transfer your application and fees to the September 9-10, 2020 bar exam.

If I have to travel from out of state to take the July bar exam and I cannot make it because of travel restrictions, will my application be transferred to the September exam?

Yes, assuming we give a September exam, an applicant otherwise qualified to take the exam but unable to attend because a public health order or recommendation restricts travel to the exam location, may request to have their exam application transferred to the September 9-10, 2020 bar exam. Any request to transfer to the September 9-10, 2020 bar exam should include a description of the basis for the request. Fees would also be carried forward to the September 9-10, 2020 bar exam.

If I did not apply for the July exam, but it is postponed to September, can I apply for the September exam?

Yes. However, applicants for the July 2020 exam will be automatically transferred to the next exam and given first priority for the September exam. Graduates of the University of North Dakota School of Law will be given second priority. If there are seats remaining after that, other applications will be accepted based on the date their application was received in the Board office.

Can I send in an application for the July exam with the intent of only reserving a seat at a September exam?

No. You should apply for the July exam with the intent of sitting for the July exam, keeping in mind the current priority of accepting applications.