

An LL.M. degree does not make foreign lawyers eligible to practice law in the U.S, but the St. Mary's Law LL.M. in American Legal Studies fulfills the curricular requirements set forth by several states to sit for the bar examination. Each U.S. state regulates the admission of attorneys to the practice of law within its jurisdiction. The [requirements for bar admission](#) vary from state to state and are complex. Each state has the final authority to determine applicant eligibility.

That being said it is the responsibility of every applicant to access the information provided by the Board of Legal Examiners' website for the state where they want to take the bar exam. It is also the applicant's responsibility to contact that state's Board of Legal Examiners with any questions, submit all documents and fees in a timely manner, and complete any U.S. law courses required by that state's Board of Legal Examiners.

[Many states](#), including Texas, have also adopted the Uniform Bar Exam ("UBE"), which allows successful bar takers to apply to transfer their license between UBE states.

### **Texas Bar**

In October of 2014 the Texas Board of Legal Examiners amended Rules I, II, III, XIII, XIV, XVII and XIX of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas. Rule XIII specifically governs the eligibility of foreign lawyers to take the Texas Bar Examination. Texas has adopted the UBE.

Visit the [Texas BLE](#) for past exams, a [sample application form](#), and [deadlines](#).

Contact the [Texas Board of Law Examiners](#) for more information.

### **New York Bar**

Information for qualifying for the New York Bar can be found on the [New York State Board of Law Examiners website](#). Additionally, LL.M. students have the opportunity to participate in our Pro Bono Program ([hyperlink to Pro Bono webpage](#)) and begin to accumulate the 50 Pro Bono hours needed for eligibility to the New York Bar.

Candidates intending to sit for the New York bar examination must complete the "Foreign Evaluation Form" and submit foreign education documentation to the New York State Board of Law Examiners (BOLE). You are strongly encouraged to submit the "Foreign Evaluation Form" and required documents **before** you arrive to St. Mary's Law. For more information, visit the BOLE [website](#).

Under [Rule 520.18](#), all candidates have to comply with the Skills Competency and Professional Values Bar Admission Requirement for admissions to the New York Bar. This requirement establishes that candidates have acquired the skills and professional values necessary to competently practice law. Our LL.M. students can fulfill this requirement following various pathways; the two most common are noted below:

**Pathway 4** - LL.M.s have completed a 6-month legal apprenticeship within 3 years *after* taking the New York Bar exam (520.18(a)(4)). New York has adopted the UBE.

**Pathway 5** - LL.M.s have practiced law full-time for a year or more before starting the LL.M. degree (520.18(a)(5)) or

Contact the [New York State Board of Law Examiners](#) for more information.

### **California Bar**

LL.M. students who are admitted to practice law in jurisdictions outside the U.S. qualify for the general California Bar Examination without any further study of law. LL.M. students with a first professional degree in law who are not admitted to practice law in jurisdictions outside the U.S. must complete certain curriculum requirements listed in [Title 4, Chapter 2, Rule 4.30](#). Additional information about qualifying for the California Bar is available on the [State Bar of California website](#). California has **not** adopted the UBE.

Contact the [State Bar of California](#) for more information.