

ALTERNATIVES TO THE BAR EXAM FAQ

I read about the recent decision by the Washington Supreme Court with regards to alternative methods for lawyer licensure. Is that true?

Yes, the Washington Supreme Court adopted, in concept, alternative pathways to lawyer licensure as recommended by the Washington Bar Licensure Task Force. The recommendations relate to a graduate apprenticeship, a law school experiential pathway, an APR 6 apprenticeship, alternative assessments and interventions, and reciprocity. The concepts for the alternative pathways are in the Task Force's report which is attached to the Court's order 25700-B-711 dated March 15, 2024.

How do I apply for one of the alternatives to the bar exam?

The recommended alternative pathways to licensure, adopted in concept by the Court, have not been implemented yet. Therefore, currently, there is no application available for these alternative pathways.

When can I expect the alternatives to be in place?

At this time, we are unable to estimate how long it will take to implement the recommendations. The WSBA will form and work with a committee to implement the recommendations. Please check the [New Licensing Alternatives \(wsba.org\)](https://www.wsba.org/new-licensing-alternatives) webpage for more information as it becomes available.

Will there be information on the website about implementing the alternative pathways?

Yes. Please check the [New Licensing Alternatives \(wsba.org\)](https://www.wsba.org/new-licensing-alternatives) webpage for more information as it becomes available.

How can I provide feedback on the alternative pathways for lawyer licensure?

You can email alternativepathways@wsba.org.

UBE and NextGen Bar Exam FAQ

Is Washington going to administer the NextGen Bar Exam?

Yes, the Washington Supreme Court entered order 25700-B-710 on March 15, 2024, adopting the NextGen Bar Exam starting in July 2026.

In light of the recommended alternative pathways to lawyer licensure, will there still be a bar exam?

Yes, the bar exam will continue to be an option even after the alternative pathways are implemented. The Uniform Bar Exam will be administered through February 2026. The NextGen Bar Exam will be administered beginning July 2026.

Did Washington lower the minimum passing score for the UBE?

Yes, the Washington Supreme Court lowered the minimum passing score for the UBE from 270 to 266 for all bar exams administered from July 2020 through the implementation of the NextGen Bar Exam. See the Court's order 25700-B-710 dated March 15, 2024. The minimum passing score for the NextGen Bar Exam has not yet been determined.