

# Applications for Lawyer Licensure in Washington State

Applications must be filed through the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) [Online Admissions System](#).

- The Washington Supreme Court Admission and Practice Rules (APR) 3-5, 8(f), 14 and 20-25 and the [WSBA Admissions Policies](#) govern applications for legal licensure in Washington state.
- All applicants are subject to a character and fitness review prior to being admitted to practice law. See APR 20-24.3. Per WSBA Admissions Policies, an investigation report from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) is required for applicants who hold a foreign law degree and either do not possess an ABA-accredited J.D. or have not completed Washington’s Law Clerk Program and for applicants who have been admitted as a lawyer in another state or territory of the U.S. or D.C. These applicants referred to the NCBE will be required to pay an investigation fee and submit authorization and release forms directly to the NCBE. The amount and type of application information that needs to be verified may impact the general timeline to licensure.
- Applicants are not licensed or permitted to practice law until the Supreme Court of Washington has entered an order admitting the applicant to the practice of law.
- This is a high-level summary of various application types in Washington and is not a comprehensive list of all application requirements; any discrepancy or conflict between the information provided here and the rules and regulations set by the Washington Supreme Court, or the bylaws and policies of the WSBA, is unintentional and will be resolved in favor of strict compliance with the rules, regulations, bylaws, and policies.

## MORE DETAILS ONLINE

See the WSBA website for additional information regarding applications for all [lawyer license types](#), as well as [pro hac vice](#) admission (permission to practice in a particular action or proceeding in Washington) or licensure as a [limited practice officer](#), which are not included in the chart on the reverse side.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION				
	APR 2(b) Admission By Bar Examination	APR 2(c)(1) Admission by Motion	APR 2(c)(2) Military Spouse Admission by Motion	APR 3(d) Admission by Uniform Bar Exam Score Transfer
<b>LICENSURE</b>	Lawyer License	Lawyer License	Lawyer License	Lawyer License
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JD from <a href="#">ABA-accredited</a> law school</li> <li>• Admission to the Washington State Bar</li> <li>• U.S. citizenship or permanent residence in the U.S.</li> <li>• Character and fitness requirements of <a href="#">APR 20-24.3</a></li> <li>• 30-day waiting period after admission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admitted to the practice of law in another state or territory of the U.S. or D.C.</li> <li>• 1 year of active legal practice in the U.S. or D.C. within the last 3 years</li> <li>• Character and fitness requirements of <a href="#">APR 20-24.3</a></li> <li>• 30-day waiting period after admission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse of an active-duty member of the U.S. Uniformed Services, who is, or will be, ordered to military service</li> <li>• 1 year of active legal practice in the U.S. or D.C. within the last 3 years</li> <li>• Character and fitness requirements of <a href="#">APR 20-24.3</a></li> <li>• 30-day waiting period after admission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcript of scores meeting Washington State Bar Exam score that is or greater than 260 for the Uniform Bar Exam</li> <li>• AND not more than 60 months since date of admission to practice law in another state or territory of the U.S. or D.C.</li> <li>• AND not more than 3 years prior to date of UBE in which applicant was admitted</li> </ul>
<b>APPLICABLE RULES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APR 20-24.3</li> <li>• APR 20-25</li> <li>• APR 20-26</li> <li>• APR 20-27</li> <li>• APR 20-28</li> <li>• APR 20-29</li> <li>• APR 20-30</li> <li>• APR 20-31</li> <li>• APR 20-32</li> <li>• APR 20-33</li> <li>• APR 20-34</li> <li>• APR 20-35</li> <li>• APR 20-36</li> <li>• APR 20-37</li> <li>• APR 20-38</li> <li>• APR 20-39</li> <li>• APR 20-40</li> <li>• APR 20-41</li> <li>• APR 20-42</li> <li>• APR 20-43</li> <li>• APR 20-44</li> <li>• APR 20-45</li> <li>• APR 20-46</li> <li>• APR 20-47</li> <li>• APR 20-48</li> <li>• APR 20-49</li> <li>• APR 20-50</li> <li>• APR 20-51</li> <li>• APR 20-52</li> <li>• APR 20-53</li> <li>• APR 20-54</li> <li>• APR 20-55</li> <li>• APR 20-56</li> <li>• APR 20-57</li> <li>• APR 20-58</li> <li>• APR 20-59</li> <li>• APR 20-60</li> <li>• APR 20-61</li> <li>• APR 20-62</li> <li>• APR 20-63</li> <li>• APR 20-64</li> <li>• APR 20-65</li> <li>• APR 20-66</li> <li>• APR 20-67</li> <li>• APR 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20-100</li> </ul>	
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admits practice law, but not to practice law in any other state or territory of the U.S. or D.C.</li> <li>• All character and fitness issues must be reported at least 30 days prior to sitting for the bar exam.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants have only one year from date of admission to complete the admission process.</li> <li>• Applicants have one year from date of admission to complete the admission process, including production requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCBE investigation report is not required.</li> <li>• Required to provide proof of marital status, active military status, and address.</li> <li>• Applicants have one year from date of admission to complete the admission process, including production requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants have one year to complete the admission process, including production requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>APPLICABLE FEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$445 (exam fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (application fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (investigation fee, if applicable)</li> <li>• \$300 (bar fee, if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$445 (exam fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (application fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (investigation fee, if applicable)</li> <li>• \$300 (bar fee, if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$445 (exam fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (application fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (investigation fee, if applicable)</li> <li>• \$300 (bar fee, if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$445 (exam fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (application fee)</li> <li>• \$100 (investigation fee, if applicable)</li> <li>• \$300 (bar fee, if applicable)</li> </ul>
<b>APPLICABLE TIMELINE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 months or, if NCBE investigation report required, 4-6 months</li> </ul>

FLIP TO  
REVIEW  
THE  
CHART >

**APR 3(b) Admission  
by Bar Examination**

**APR 3(c)(1)  
Admission by  
Motion**

**APR 3(c)(2)  
Military Spouse  
Admission by  
Motion**

**APR 3(d)  
Admission by  
Uniform Bar  
Exam Score  
Transfer**

LICENSE TYPE	Lawyer License	Lawyer License	Lawyer License	Lawyer License
ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; J.D. from <a href="#">ABA-accredited law school</a>; <b>OR</b></li> <li>&gt; Completion of the <a href="#">Washington Supreme Court APR 6 Law Clerk Program</a>; <b>OR</b></li> <li>&gt; J.D. from any U.S. law school + LL.M. degree that meets the requirements of <a href="#">Washington Supreme Court APR 3</a> from an <a href="#">ABA-accredited law school</a>; <b>OR</b></li> <li>&gt; Graduation from a foreign university or law school with a degree in law that qualifies the applicant to practice law in that jurisdiction and earned an LL.M. degree that meets the requirements of <a href="#">Washington Supreme Court APR 3</a> from an <a href="#">ABA-approved law school</a>; <b>OR</b></li> <li>Admission to practice of law in any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence and has legal experience for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Admitted to the practice of law with current good standing in other state or territory of the U.S., or D.C.; <b>AND</b></li> <li>&gt; Proof of active legal experience (as defined by APR 1(e)(1) for at least one of the past three years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Spouse of an active-duty service member of the U.S. Uniformed Services, who is, or will be, stationed in Washington within 6 months of filing application; <b>AND</b></li> <li>&gt; Applicant resides or will reside in Washington as the spouse of the U.S. Uniformed Services member within 6 months of filing the application; <b>AND</b></li> <li>&gt; Admitted to the practice of law with current good standing in other state or territory of the U.S., or D.C.; <b>AND</b></li> <li>&gt; Applicant has no lawyer disciplinary sanctions or pending lawyer disciplinary or incapacity matters in any jurisdiction in which applicant has been admitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Transcript of receiving qualifying score equal to or greater than 260 for the Legacy UBE and 610 for the NextGen UBE, <b>AND</b> not more than 40 months since date of UBE in which the score was earned; <b>AND</b></li> <li>&gt; Transcript of receiving MPRE score equal to or greater than 85 <b>AND</b> not more than 3 years prior or 40 months later than date of UBE in which earned UBE score being transferred.</li> </ul>
APPLICATION FEE	<p><b>\$595 (non-lawyers)</b> <b>\$645 (lawyers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ NCBE exam fee</li> <li>+ Technology fee</li> <li>+ NCBE investigation fee, if applicable</li> <li>+ \$300 late fee, if applicable</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$970.00</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ NCBE investigation fee</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$970.00</b></p>	<p><b>\$595 (non-lawyers)</b> <b>\$645 (lawyers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ NCBE investigation fee, if applicable</li> </ul>
OTHER INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Apply starting Feb. 1 (summer exam) or Sept. 1 (winter exam).</li> <li>&gt; All character and fitness issues must be resolved at least 18 days prior to sitting for the bar exam.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Applicants have one year from date of submission to complete the admission process, including preadmission requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; NCBE investigation report is not required.</li> <li>&gt; Required to provide proof of marital status, active legal duty, and admission.</li> <li>&gt; Applicants have one year to complete the admission process, including preadmission requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Applicants have one year to complete the admission process, including preadmission requirements.</li> </ul>
APPROX. PROCESSING TIME	<p><b>Varies</b>; applicants notified whether granted permission to sit for exam no later than 18 days before exam</p>	<p><b>4-6 months</b></p>	<p><b>1-2 months</b></p>	<p><b>2-3 months</b> or, if NCBE investigation report required, then 4-6 months</p>