

TENNESSEE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

# TENNESSEE BAR EXAM

GENERAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL – July 28 & 29, 2026

**PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL  
FOR THE TENNESSEE BAR EXAMINATION**

**Please carefully read all of the information provided herein so that you do not unknowingly violate procedures.**

This information has been prepared by the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners for bar exam applicants. The purpose of this Manual is to provide information regarding testing policies and procedures, as well as what to expect on exam days. You will be required to sign an Honor Pledge at the end of the exam attesting to the fact that you did not violate these procedures.

**Failure to follow the Policies and Procedures of the Board during the exam or while at the exam location in a Secure Area will result in expulsion from the test and nullification of exam scores. You may be required to appear before the Board, as well.**

**DEADLINE FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM:**

**A sample Acknowledgment Form can be found on page 17 with a link to a .pdf fillable form. You must complete the Acknowledgment Form and upload to your Synergy Application for the July 2026 Examination ON OR BEFORE THE FINAL DEADLINE for Applications. Failure to upload the Acknowledgment Form will result in a determination of the Board that you are not eligible to sit for the exam.**

# TENNESSEE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

JULY 2026 Tennessee Bar Examination

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**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS MANUAL COMPLETELY AND THOROUGHLY EVEN IF YOU READ A PREVIOUS MANUAL AS INFORMATION HAS CHANGED.**

### **DEADLINE FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM:**

**A sample Acknowledgment Form is found on page 17. A .pdf fillable form can be found on the TBLE website [here](#). Upload the Acknowledgment Form on or before the Final Deadline for completing your application for examination (May 20) or you will not be eligible to sit for the JULY 2026 examination.**

**A. DAILY SCHEDULE AND LATE ARRIVAL POLICY**

[ ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL TIME AT THE EXAM LOCATION ]

**STANDARD TESTING SCHEDULE: For all Applicants other than those who received notice of approval of a Non-Standard Testing Accommodation of extended time:**

DAILY SCHEDULE	MORNING	LUNCH	AFTERNOON
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing MPT-1 and MPT-2	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing 6 MEE questions
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing 100 MBE questions.	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing 100 MBE questions

**THE SCHEDULES BELOW ARE ONLY FOR THOSE APPLICANTS APPROVED FOR EXTENDED TIME TESTING, AS WILL BE NOTED IN YOUR SEATING ASSIGNMENT LETTER:**

**The following is ONLY for Applicants approved for up to 50% EXTRA TESTING TIME:<sup>1</sup>**

DAILY SCHEDULE	MORNING	LUNCH	AFTERNOON
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Instructions at 7:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 4.5 hours of testing MPT-1 and MPT-2	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 4.5 hours of testing 6 MEE questions
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Instructions at 7:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m.: 4.5 hours of testing 100 MBE questions	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 4.5 hours of testing 100 MBE questions

**The following is ONLY for Applicants approved for up to 100% EXTRA TESTING TIME:<sup>2</sup>**

DAILY SCHEDULE	MORNING	LUNCH	AFTERNOON
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30a.m. 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing 3 MEE questions	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing 3 MEE questions
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing 50 MBE questions.	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing 50 MBE questions
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing 50 MBE questions.	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing 50 MBE questions
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Instructions at 8:30a.m. 9:00 a.m.: 3 hours of testing MPT 1	12:10 – 1:15	Instructions at 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m.: 3 hours of testing MPT 2

Note: Schedules for Applicants with certain accommodations will vary and will be provided with your exam seating assignment email that will be sent approximately 1 week prior to the exam.

**1. LATE ARRIVAL**

**NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED AFTER 9:00 A.M., WHEN THE EXAM BEGINS.** Examinees who arrive after instructions have begun (8:30 am/1:15 pm) may be admitted in the discretion of the Board. Registration closes at 8:45 a.m. ANYONE NOT SEATED AT 8:30 AM/1:15 PM. WILL NOT BE GIVEN SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS OR EXTRA TIME FOR ANY STEP IN THE PROCESS, INCLUDING MARKING THE SCANTRON SHEET. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE LATE ARRIVAL POLICY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

<sup>1</sup> This includes Applicants approved for UP TO 50% extra time and those approved for off-the-clock breaks UP TO 50% extra time.  
<sup>2</sup> This includes Applicants approved for 100% extra time and those approved for off-the-clock breaks up to 100% extra time.

## B. PRE-EXAM INFORMATION AND POST-APPLICATION DEADLINES

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

After the Final Deadline, the Board will review all applications to determine if each applicant is eligible to take the exam. Applicants who are not eligible to take the examination will be notified on or before June 16, 2026. **The only recourse for Applicants who are found to be ineligible for failure to meet the Final Deadline is to apply for a subsequent examination. TENN. SUP. CT. R. 7, § 3.03(e).**

### 2. LAPTOP USAGE REQUIRED - SOFTWARE REGISTRATION DATES

**ALL EXAM TAKERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TEST BY LAPTOP AND MUST BRING THEIR OWN LAPTOP DEVICE TO THE EXAMINATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE PARTS OF THE EXAMINATION (MPT AND MEE).**

The TNBLE uses an outside vendor, ExamSoft, to provide testing software for the examination and that there is a separate fee for the laptop testing software license. I have added the email addresses, "[noreply@examsoft.com](mailto:noreply@examsoft.com)" and "[noreply@turnitin.com](mailto:noreply@turnitin.com)," and the domains, "@examsoft.com" and "@turnitin.com" as a trusted sender in my email program.

Please note that the **bar exam testing software works differently** from the software used during law school, even if provided by the same software provider. The license for the bar exam software is specific to each exam so the software you downloaded for another exam will not work for the current exam. You must register and download the software **each time you take the exam.**

**If you have previously downloaded the ExamSoft "Exemplify" software, it is highly recommended that you remove all versions of Exemplify from your computer prior to downloading the Exemplify software for the exam for best exam day performance.**

- **LAPTOP REGISTRATION DATES: Registration for the laptop testing software, Exemplify, opens at 9:00 a.m., June 18, 2026, and closes at 3:00 p.m., June 25, 2026 ("Registration Deadline").**
- You will receive a notice from ExamSoft with registration dates and the registration links. **Please add "@turnitin.com" as a trusted sender so that you receive the links for registration.**
- You must **register for and download** the Exemplify Software on or before the registration deadline.
- In addition to timely registration for laptop testing, **you are required to complete the Mock Exam and upload the Mock Exam on or before 3:00 p.m., June 30, 2026 ("Mock Exam Deadline").**
- **If you do not complete the registration and download process by the Registration Deadline, or if you fail to upload the Mock Exam by the Mock Exam Deadline, you will not be eligible to take the examination.**
- Additional information on Laptop Testing can be found on the ExamSoft website and at <https://ei.examsoft.com/GKWeb/login/tnbar>. Minimum system requirements can be found here: <https://examsoft.com/resources/exemplify-minimum-system-requirements/#bar>.

### 3. LAW DEGREE CONFERRAL DATE

If, at the time of the Final Deadline, you have not completed your law school studies, your law school will be required to upload a Late Law Degree Confirmation (included in the Law Degree Verification forms) on or before **JULY 17, 2026**, confirming that you have completed the requirements for your law degree. If the Board does not receive the confirmation, you will not be permitted to take the JULY 2026 examination.

#### 4. EMERGENCY NON-STANDARD TESTING OR COURTESY ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Emergency requests for accommodations must be complete, and all required documentation uploaded, on or before **JULY 22, 2026**.

#### 5. TESTING LOCATIONS

In July, the examination is given in multiple locations:

- **Knoxville, TN:** The World's Fair Exhibition Halls
- **Memphis, TN:** The Great Hall and Conference Center – Germantown
- **Nashville, TN:** The Nashville Fairgrounds Exposition Center

Note that examinees who have been approved to test with more than 50% extra time or off-the-clock breaks greater than 50%, will test in Nashville but not at The Fairgrounds. The location will be provided to examinees with the approval of accommodations or shortly thereafter.

**Examinees are not permitted in the examination locations beginning on Monday prior to the start of the exam on Tuesday.**

#### 6. CONTACT INFORMATION VERIFICATION

The Board and Examssoft, the laptop testing software contractor, communicate with you exclusively by email, which includes providing important information and updates regarding the laptop testing registration and software download information, examination schedules, updates, seat assignments and results, and instructions for licensing and admission. **You are under a continuing obligation to maintain and update the following information in your Synergy account:**

- **Your full name** – Please verify that this is correct and uses proper punctuation and capitalization. If you have included “Mr.” or “Ms.” or similar as a suffix or elsewhere in your name, please delete it. A suffix is Jr., Sr., II, III, etc. Do not add any prefixes and use only a suffix that is part of your legal name.
- **Your mailing address** – Please be sure your current mailing address is in your Synergy account.
- **Your email address** - Many school email accounts i.e., myname@lawschool.edu, expire after you graduate. **Keep your email address current or you will miss critical information sent by the Board.**

Please accept “@tncourts.gov,” [ble.administrator@tncourts.gov](mailto:ble.administrator@tncourts.gov), “@examssoft.com” and “@turnitin.com” as trusted senders and domains in your email program so that you receive important notices and deadline information.

#### 7. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Tennessee Board of Law Examiners (the “Board”) is committed to a safe administration of the exam for all parties involved in taking and administering the exam. The ability to administer the exam consistent with public health guidelines will only be possible with the cooperation of all applicants. If you wear a mask during the exam, it is subject to inspection. Vented masks, gaiters, and face shields are not permitted.

**You are expected to stay home if you are sick** with any illness, including but not limited to the flu, stomach virus, Covid-19, RSV, bronchitis, etc., or if you test positive for any transmitted illness. You will not be permitted entry to the exam if you have tested positive any transmitted illness from 7 days prior to the examination through the end of the examination.

You will be required to acknowledge the Public Health and Safety Protocols on the attached Acknowledgment Form.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

At the end of this Manual you will find a sample Acknowledgment Form that will include a link for a fillable Acknowledgment Form, You must complete the fillable Acknowledgment Form, affix your signature (typed or digital), and upload the completed and signed form to your Synergy Application under the item titled, “Acknowledgment: TN General Instruction Manual,” **on or before the Final Deadline for filing applications for examination (May 20). If you do not upload the completed and signed Acknowledgment Form by the Final Deadline, you will not be permitted to sit for the examination. The only recourse if not permitted to sit for the examination is to apply for a subsequent examination.**

## 9. PARKING AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Ample parking is available at test locations. Some locations charge a fee for parking and there are usually auxiliary lots nearby at lower cost. The Board of Law Examiners does not pay for your parking. Several hotels are within walking distance or a short drive from testing locations. The Board of Law Examiners does not arrange for room blocks or special rates at hotels.

## 10. LUNCH

You will be on your own for lunch. There are food vendors near the testing venues. No one is allowed to remain in the Secure Area (defined below) during lunch. Proctors will be preparing the room for the afternoon session. **On Tuesday,<sup>3</sup> laptops must remain in the exam room during the lunch break.** Note that some venues do not permit you to bring outside food into the exam location.

## 11. SEATING ASSIGNMENTS AND APPLICANT ID NUMBERS

You will receive an email **at least one week prior to the exam** with your testing location, seat assignment, and unique Applicant ID number. Your Applicant ID number is a 5-digit examinee number that will **begins with the number, 57**. You **MUST** put this number on all of your papers, including test booklets and the Honor Pledge as instructed by the Proctor, or you will not receive an exam grade. **Do not use your name on or in your answers.** The Bar Exam is processed and scored entirely by Applicant ID numbers. Do not bring the seat assignment with you to the exam. Your seat number, Applicant ID number and NCBE will be at your seat and on your Exam Badge (see B-3, below). **You will need to know the last four digits of your Social Security Number for the MBE Scantron Sheet on Wednesday.**

## 12. TENNESSEE APPLICATION CHECKLISTS

Application Checklists can be found on the Board of Law Examiners website [here](#) for First Time and [here](#) for Re-Examination Applications. Tennessee bar exam FAQs can be found on the Board of Law Examiners website at <https://tnble.org>.

# C. EXAM DAY INFORMATION

## 1. REGISTRATION

You will register before taking your seat each morning. To register, you must present your government photo REALID, sign the registration sheet as directed by the registrar, and, on the first day, receive your badge. You will be directed to a table to place small items, such as cell phones and keys, in a brown bag and leave at the table with the proctor prior to taking your seat each morning.<sup>4</sup> Those who may need

<sup>3</sup> Tuesday and Friday for those with double-time testing accommodations.

<sup>4</sup> See C. Security Policy, paragraph 7, below, as you are not permitted to have anything in your pockets.

feminine hygiene products during the examination may place the feminine hygiene products in a brown bag, write their Applicant ID number on the bag, take the bag into the exam room, and leave the bag, which will be inspected, with a proctor at the restroom table. Otherwise, brown bags must be left with the proctor at the table where you obtained the brown bag. **Leave heavy coats and non-conforming layers (See Permitted Items, D3, below) in the area designated for personal belonging.**

**CLEAR BAG POLICY: No bags, handbags, backpacks, suitcases or other similar items are permitted in the Secure Area. If you bring your lunch, it must be in a clear plastic or PVC bag. Required and Permitted Items as noted in the Security Policy in Section C, Paragraphs 2 and 3, may be placed in a clear plastic zip-top bag, no larger than gallon size, 12 inches x 10 inches. You may carry in your laptop computer on Tuesday, which cannot be in a case or have a removable plastic shell or cover. If you arrive with a bag that does not meet this requirement, you will not be permitted entry into the Secure Area (D1, below) with the non-conforming bag.**

Once you register, you are **not permitted to leave the Secure Area (D1, below)**. Do not leave the building. You may retrieve items from brown bags at the registration table only during lunch. When returning from lunch, return any items removed from the registration table prior to having your badge checked and returning to your seat. **You may only enter or exit the exam room using the doors indicated by the proctors or staff.**

## **2. ASSIGNED SEATING**

You must sit in the seat marked with your pre-assigned seat number. Sitting in a seat not assigned to you is a violation of the Security Policy. You will be dismissed from the exam and your exam will not be graded. Violations will be reported to the Board, who may conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam. If you do not remember your seat number, it is on your Exam Badge.

## **3. LEAVING YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT DURING THE EXAM – RESTROOM BREAKS**

You must remain seated from the time instructions begin until the exam begins. The Chief Proctor will provide full instructions regarding when you may leave your seat. If you need to leave your seat for a restroom break during testing, you will follow this procedure:

- Signs will be used to indicate when you may leave your seat for a restroom break, as explained by the Chief Proctor.
- Take your printed test materials (all question books, answer books or scantron sheets, laptop instructions – do not take your laptop but lock the screen using “Exam Controls”), to the table designated by the Chief Proctor during instructions for restroom sign-out. Your Applicant ID Number and Seat Number (both on your Exam Badge) must be on your materials. *If you leave feminine hygiene products at the restroom table, you may retrieve the bag from the proctor at the restroom table when signing out.*
- Place your test materials *face down* on the proctor table and sign out as instructed by the Proctor.
- Use only the restrooms designated by the Chief Proctor during instructions. Only the designated restrooms are within the Secure Area. When you return, the proctor will verify your Applicant ID number on your Exam Badge before returning your test materials.
- You may not leave the Secure Area for any reason during the examination. **Leaving the secure area will disqualify you from the exam, nullify your scores, and subject you to review by the Board.**
- Failure to bring your materials to the designated restroom table, failure to sign out or in, and failure to

permit the proctor to verify that you have retrieved your materials is a violation of the Code of Conduct and **will disqualify you from completing the exam, nullify your scores, and subject you to review by the Board.**

#### 4. EXAM BADGE

You will be given a picture Exam Badge (Exam Badge) at registration the first day of the exam. The badge will include your name, seat number, Applicant ID number, and NCBE number. Lanyards will be at your assigned seat. **You are required to go directly to your assigned seat, put the Exam Badge in the holder, and place the lanyard around your neck. The Exam Badge is an integral part of the exam security procedures. Failure to follow the procedures regarding the Exam Badge will result in ejection from the exam and nullify your scores, regardless of when the offense occurs.**

**You are required to wear the Exam Badge while you are in the exam room, until you are dismissed for the day.** If you are found in the exam room prior to instructions without the Exam Badge around your neck, you will be required to go back through registration and may be ejected from the exam if, for example, you have previously been returned to registration and are ignoring instructions to wear the Exam Badge.

**Please carefully read all of the information provided herein so that you do not unknowingly violate security procedures.**

- You may not write anything on the Exam Badge or put anything other than the Exam Badge in the lanyard pocket. Writing on the Exam Badge or putting other items in the lanyard will result in expulsion from the exam and nullification of your exam scores.
- You must take the Exam Badge with you or wear it during lunch and show the Exam Badge worn around your neck to the proctor to re-enter the secure area after lunch.
- **At the end of testing each day**, you will be instructed to place your lanyard, with the Exam Badge in the holder, at your seat. **Leaving the secure area with the Exam Badge at the end of the day is not permitted. Do not take the Exam Badge home overnight or you will be denied entry the next day.**
- You will repeat the registration process each morning of testing, showing your government photo REALID and signing in. After registration, go directly to your seat and place the lanyard with the Exam Badge around your neck.
- When the examination is completed (i.e., you won't be returning the following day), the Chief Proctor will provide instructions regarding the collection of the Exam Badges and disposal of lanyards.

If you are found in the exam room after instructions begin without your Exam Badge and lanyard around your neck, or if you took the Exam Badge out of the secure area at the end of the previous day, **you will be ejected from the exam, not permitted to reenter the exam room, and you will not receive an exam score. This is a serious violation of the security policy.** Violations are reported to the Board and the Board may conduct a hearing regarding your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.

#### 5. LAPTOP TESTING

- You are required to use a properly registered laptop with Examplify already downloaded and the mock exam completed. You will use your laptop on Tuesday only for the MPT and MEE segments of the

exam.<sup>5</sup> NOTE that if the device to which you originally downloaded the Exemplify software is not available for the exam days, you must notify the Board ([ble.administrator@tncourts.gov](mailto:ble.administrator@tncourts.gov)) and contact ExamSoft to re-download the Software to another computer and complete a new mock exam.

- Prior to entering the secure area, be sure to:
  - **disable any anti-virus software** you may have installed;
  - **close all programs that might be running in the background;**
  - **remove the laptop from any case or protective shell;** and
  - **remove all external devices**, including external SIM cards, USBs or Bluetooth receivers; Note that any removable device found during the exam will be confiscated. See **SECURITY POLICY**, below.
- Your keyboard must be an integral part of your laptop; if it is a detachable keyboard, the keyboard must remain docked (attached) while your laptop is in the Secure Area. If you separate the keyboard, **you will be ejected from the exam and you will not receive an exam score. Violations are reported to the Board and the Board may conduct a hearing regarding your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.**
- You cannot use any peripheral devices such as a wired or wireless mouse.
- You must bring your power cord but cannot use a block-type plug in as it takes too much space; rather, add an extension to the block adapter so that the block is in line. See the attached Appendix for pictures. You cannot complete the exam on battery power only. **You are not permitted to bring more than one power cord.**
- Once you enter the **Secure Area** and open your laptop, you must launch Exemplify immediately—you cannot use your laptop to read notes, check e-mail, or browse the internet once you enter the Secure Area. **Once in the Secure Area, accessing anything on your laptop other than Exemplify is a violation of the Honor Pledge and you will be ejected from the exam, will not receive an exam score, and may be required to appear before the Board.**
- Instructions for launching Exemplify will be distributed to you at the exam site. **You must read and follow these instructions.** Passwords will be provided at the beginning of each testing session.
- The laptop testing software may not work the same way your software for law school worked. Each answer is typed in a different tab so that each answer is printed separately for the graders. See B6, Incorrectly Formatted Answers, below.
- When you complete the morning exam session on Tuesday,<sup>6</sup> **exit to the launch screen** but do not close your laptop or exit ExamSoft. **You must leave your laptop at your seat in the exam room during the lunch break. You may connect to any available WiFi to upload your answers.** Staff will be present in the exam room during the break to monitor laptops.
- When you complete the afternoon exam session, **exit to the launch screen** but do not exit ExamSoft or close your laptop until a proctor, ExamSoft technician or the Chief Proctor directs you to do so.
- If you experience a technical difficulty and cannot use your laptop, you will be given materials to handwrite your answers.
- The **DEADLINE** for uploading essay answers **is 9:00 p.m. local time at the exam location, Wednesday, JULY 29, 2026.**<sup>7</sup> **Answers uploaded after the deadline will not be graded.** Although all locations have

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<sup>5</sup> Tuesday and Friday for double-time testing

<sup>6</sup> Tuesday and Friday for double-time testing

<sup>7</sup> Tuesday and Friday for double-time testing.

internet service, such service might not be sufficient for upload of all answers at the same time. It is strongly recommended that you check to be sure your answers have been uploaded as soon as possible upon reaching your final destination on **Tuesday** night.

## 6. INCORRECTLY FORMATTED ANSWERS

It is critical that you complete the mock exam and follow the instructions given by the Chief Proctor, the information provided in this Manual, and the instructions provided by ExamSoft so that you type your answers in the correct tab. **If you fail to follow the instructions and your answers are not in the tab or answer booklet corresponding to the question number i.e., MPT-1 is typed in the tab for MPT-2, or you typed or wrote multiple answers in one tab or answer booklet, you will not be given additional time to correct your error. The Board does not search for your answers or verify that you answered the correct question in the answer tab or answer booklet.** If an answer is not in the correct answer tab or the correctly numbered answer booklet, it will be graded as the answer to the question labeled on the tab or booklet. Similarly, for the MBE, you are responsible for properly completing the Scantron sheet. **It is your responsibility to type your answers in the correct answer tab or question booklet and to properly mark your Scantron sheet for the MBE.** Examples include but are not limited to:

- typing an answer in the wrong answer tab in Exemplify, including writing answers to both MPT questions or all MEE answers in the same answer tab, or deleting, adding, editing or renumbering the preloaded laptop software dividers (for laptop users); and/or
- writing multiple answers in one answer booklet or incorrectly numbering an answer booklet (for handwriters); and/or
- marking your MBE answers in your question booklet and not transferring the answer to the Scantron sheet; and/or
- marking your MBE choice on the wrong line of your Scantron sheet and not correcting it, i.e., the numbering is off for the balance of the exam.

Once time is called, you must stop working on your answers. No additional time will be awarded for failing to follow instructions. If an MPT or MEE answer does not match the question or is blank, you will receive a zero for that question. For the MBE, your answers will be graded as marked on the Scantron sheet. Answers recorded only in the MBE question booklet will not receive any credit.

## 7. MARKING IN TEST BOOKS

Do not write anything on your test booklets, laptop instructions, or passwords, exam answer books, tissues, or any other surface **before the exam begins** other than as directed by the Chief Proctor. You will be dismissed from the exam and you will not receive an exam score if you fail to follow this instruction. Violations will be reported to the Board, who may conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.

After testing begins, you may underline, mark, diagram, write, and make notes on all question books, but such markings will not be graded. DO NOT remove any pages from any of the test materials. This is a breach of exam testing protocol and you will be dismissed from the exam. You will not receive an exam score and may be required to appear before the Board.

## 8. SCRATCH PAPER

Scratch paper is not permitted for any testing session. Blank space, including the inside covers, is included

in each test booklet. No additional paper will be provided.

## 9. PROCTOR AND NCBE INSTRUCTIONS

The Chief Proctor will give verbal instructions before the start of each session. You must remain seated and attentive as there is information beyond the information included in this manual that you must follow. Further, there are instructions that you are required to read before beginning each testing session. You must follow the written instructions on the MPT, MEE, and MBE books, as well as proctor instructions. Failure to follow verbal instructions, the instructions provided with the MPT, MEE, and MBE books, and the requirements included in this Manual ***will disqualify you from the exam and nullify your scores.*** **All examinees are expected to follow all Proctor Instructions and comply with Proctor requests. If a Proctor finds an item in your possession to be non-conforming, inappropriate, or distracting, you must follow Proctor instructions regarding the item.**

## 10. EXAM MATERIAL SECURITY

**No early dismissals from any examination session are permitted.** If you complete any session of the exam prior to time being called, you must keep your materials at your desk and stay seated, other than for a water or restroom break, as described herein. During the last 30 minutes of each session, you may not leave your seat for any reason. Before examinees are dismissed from a testing session, all test materials, including question books and answer booklets, must be counted and reconciled to the distribution charts. Therefore, when time is called at the end of a testing session, you must remain seated and refrain from talking until proctors and staff account for the test materials. Please consider this as you make plans for meeting any responsibilities you may have at the end of these testing sessions. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## 11. STARTING, BUT NOT COMPLETING, THE BAR EXAMINATION

If you do not register for the first morning session of the examination, you will not be allowed to enter subsequent exam sessions. Likewise, if you do not return for any section of the exam, you will not be allowed to enter subsequent exam sections. Failure to complete the examination will be treated as a withdrawal from the exam and you will not receive an exam score.

## 12. ATTIRE AND GENERAL ADVISORY

The Board of Law Examiners makes every effort to provide appropriate testing conditions but environmental controls are not within the Board's control. Dress in layers to adjust to the temperature in the exam room. Be prepared to be flexible. HATS, HOODS, HOODIES, scarves, head coverings of any kind,<sup>8</sup> or anything with an attached hood are not allowed in the testing room. Please refrain from using perfumes or colognes on exam days as other examinees may be sensitive to the scent. Also, be considerate of others by not wearing any jewelry or footwear (such as flip-flops) that makes noise or could be distracting. **You will be required to empty your pockets.** It is advisable to bring nothing more to the exam than what is required or permitted as provided below.

## 13. NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

Examinees should expect to be photographed or videotaped during the examination, as needed. Photography or videography will be done in such a way as to minimize any distractions during testing.

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<sup>8</sup> Absent an accommodation, no head coverings are allowed. Use the form for courtesy accommodations; any approved head covering is subject to inspection.

## 14. SUGGESTIONS FOR ANSWERING ESSAY QUESTIONS

Suggestions from graders for answering essay questions can be found on the Board of Law Examiners website at [https://bwp.tnble.org/?page\\_id=290](https://bwp.tnble.org/?page_id=290). You can find information regarding MPT and MEE questions at <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/>.

### D. SECURITY POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 1. SECURE AREA

Each exam location has a Secure Area. If the exam is the only event in the building, only examinees, bar exam proctors, BLE staff members, and building personnel will be allowed in the building and the entire building is the secure area. For locations where other events may be scheduled in the building, the Secure Area includes the registration tables, exam room, restrooms, and any hallway area to, from, or around the registration tables and restrooms. The Chief Proctor will announce the “secure area” in the verbal instructions at the start of the exam. **All exam location secure areas are inaccessible beginning on the Monday before the examination.** (See B.5., above).

You may not enter the room until the room opens for testing each morning and each afternoon; you must leave the secure area during the lunch break and at the end of testing when dismissed.

If you leave the Secure Area during a testing session for any reason, including using a restroom not designated for use by examinees, you cannot re-enter the Secure Area during that testing session or any subsequent testing session, you will be dismissed from the exam and your scores will be nullified. Do not leave the Secure Area during any testing session for any reason, other than during an emergency, and then only as directed by the Chief Proctor. Entering cordoned-off areas of the building in which the exam is being administered may result in dismissal from the exam. The Board and examinees do not have access to all areas of the building(s) not used for testing.

#### 2. REQUIRED ITEMS

- For registration each day, you must present a valid, unexpired government-issued photo REALID, such as a passport or driver’s license, in order to enter the Secure Area. A school ID is not acceptable, even if issued by a state school. Do not bring your seat assignment email.
- Each day, you must bring up to 4 Number 2 pencils and one pencil-top eraser.

#### 3. PERMITTED ITEMS

In addition to the photo REALID and pencils as noted above, you may bring only the following items into the exam room (absent an accommodation approved through a Request for Non-Standard Testing or Courtesy Accommodation):

- One room or car key/fob (just one key/fob, not the full key ring)
- Up to **6 pieces** of cough drops or hard candy – unpackaged, unwrapped and placed on table prior to start of exam (no gum or chewable candies of any type, such as M&Ms, Skittles, Riesen, Lifesaver mints, or similar)
- Non-Medicated eye drops in clear bottle with label removed
- Chap stick with the label removed
- Water in a clear container with a top to prevent spills and without labels or printing
- Hand sanitizer in a clear bottle with no labels or printing and a top to prevent spills

- Non-hooded sweatshirt or sweater which may be placed on the back of chair if not worn; coats and/or jacket, tactical clothing, long cardigans or long, knit coats, or anything other than a basic sweatshirt or sweater must be placed in the area designated by proctors; if a proctor tells you that a layer does not meet the policy, do not take it into the testing room. See the Appendix for examples.
- Feminine hygiene products, placed in a brown bag and labeled with your seat number, left with a proctor at the restroom table
- On Tuesday,<sup>9</sup> your laptop and charging cord; see the attached Appendix for information about chargers that have a plug block.

**The Permitted and Required Items may be placed in a clear, zip-top bag (up to 1-gallon size). Bring only the items required or permitted. Remove the items from the bag and place the flattened bag on the floor under your seat at the table where you are testing.**

**Proctors may determine that an item does not meet the Permitted Items criteria and direct you to remove the item from the testing area. You may take it to the registration area and place it in a brown bag. If a proctor removes it for you, it will be placed in a brown bag at registration with your seat number on the bag.**

#### 4. PROVIDED ITEMS

The Board will provide clocks visible to all, individual pencil sharpeners, answer booklets for handwriters, earplugs (one pair each day), and tissues. Space for taking notes is included in the question booklets.

#### 5. PROHIBITED ITEMS

**Anything not listed above as a Required Item, Permitted Item, or Provided Item is PROHIBITED in the Secure Area. If you bring a Prohibited Item into the Secure Area, whether or not testing is in session, the Prohibited Item will be confiscated, you will be ejected from the exam and you will not receive an exam score.** Violations are reported to the Board and the Board may conduct a hearing regarding your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam. Before entering the Secure Area, leave all prohibited items you may have brought into the testing location with you in your car or in the area designated for Prohibited Items.

**Prohibited items include but ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

**× ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES, including but not limited to:**

- cell or mobile phones
- smart watches, digital watches or timers, smart glasses, fitness trackers, or other wearable technology
- cameras or any picture-taking devices
- audio or media players, handheld computers and tablets, language translators
- earbuds, headphones, or earphones (including noise cancelling devices)
- External mouse, external keyboard, whether wired or wireless), USBs, or other plug-in devices and extra power cords (one laptop power cord is required for testing by laptop for the MPT and MEE)
- E-cigarettes
- external power sources/batteries, and
- any device or item with a battery or an on/off switch, or that transmits a signal or can capture an

<sup>9</sup> Tuesday and Friday for double-time testing.

image

- ✗ non-electronic watches whether battery powered, sun powered or wind-up
- ✗ non-electronic headphones, earbuds, or earplugs other than those provided by the Board
- ✗ books, study aids, notes, scratch paper, or paper of any kind
- ✗ pens of any type, mechanical pencils, rulers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, erasers of any kind, other than the permitted pencil top eraser, correction fluid, correction pens, correction tape, or pencil grips
- ✗ Food and beverages, other than as noted in Permitted Items, absent accommodation
- ✗ Hats, scarves, any item of clothing with a hood, gaiters or face shields, headgear (except religious items that have been approved & inspected), blankets, pillows, wraps, large jewelry or hair accessories, including wide headbands or large clips
- ✗ Backpacks, purses, tote bags, billfolds, wallets, cardholders, plastic or other bags, laptop cases, laptop sleeves, or laptop shells, eyeglass cases, eyeglass cleaning cloths, (eyeglasses are permitted just not cases or cleaning cloths), other than the permitted clear plastic bag, as noted in Section D, Paragraph 3, above.
- ✗ Firearms or other weapons – all testing is conducted in spaces that are permitted to prohibit firearms
- ✗ Tobacco products of any kind, including smokeless/chewing tobacco, E-cigs/Vapor devices
- ✗ **Any item deemed by the Chief Proctor to be non-conforming, inappropriate, or distracting**

## 6. EMPTY POCKETS AND CELL PHONES

All pockets in your clothing (including any sweatshirt or sweater not worn but being taken to your seat) **MUST BE EMPTIED** of all items, including wallets and cell phones. Either do not bring these items to the examination site or place the items in brown bags at the registration desk; see Registration B-1, above.

**CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES:** If you bring a cell phone or other device into the building, you **MUST** leave it at the registration desk in a brown paper bag that will be provided when you register each morning. You will write your name on the bag with your cell phone. **THE CELL PHONE AND ALL ALARMS MUST BE TURNED OFF.** Even when stored at registration in the provided bag, **if your cell phone rings, chimes, or makes noise during the exam, you will be ejected from the exam and you will not receive an exam score.** Violations are reported to the Board and the Board may conduct a hearing regarding your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.

**If you do not store your cell phone in a brown bag and it is found on your person at your seat or otherwise in the secure area at any time,<sup>10</sup> or if you have another device in the exam room that can record and/or transmit images, connect to the internet via Wi-Fi or cell service and/or store materials of any kind, the phone and/or device will be confiscated and may be sent to the NCBE for investigation.** You will be ejected from the exam and you will not receive an exam score. You will be reported to the Board and the Board may conduct a hearing regarding your character and fitness and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.

Proctors will be at the registration desk during the exam and breaks. You may retrieve your phone during the lunch break and return it after lunch. ***The Board of Law Examiners is not responsible for items left at the registration table in brown bags or in the area for storing personal belongings.***

## 7. PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

You are expected to be courteous and respectful of other examinees, the Proctors, the Chief Proctor, BLE

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<sup>10</sup> At any time includes any time you are in the secure area, prior to testing or after testing has ended but prior to dismissal.

Staff members, and Security Personnel. Disruptive behavior or failure to follow instructions will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in your ejection from the exam. You will not receive an exam score and your violations will be reported to the Board, who may conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions in addition to your disqualification from the exam.

The MPT, MEE and MBE are owned by the NCBE and protected by U.S. copyright laws. You are not permitted to remove or attempt to remove original, duplicated or recorded test materials, notes, or reconstructed test questions or answers from the exam room at any time or by any means. This includes sharing with anyone the substance or details of any test question fact pattern, option choices, or answer, in whole or in part, by verbal communication, email, blogs, online social or professional networking sites, written notes, or any other means. It is a violation of the Honor Pledge to share examination content or information about the examination content with anyone. For infractions discovered after the exam, your violations will be reported to the NCBE and to the Board, who may conduct a hearing into your character and fitness, and/or take other actions as well as disqualify your examination scores.

## 8. EMERGENCIES

In the rare event there is an emergency that affects all or part of the testing venue, please pay close attention to the instructions that will be provided by the Chief Proctor. Do not leave your seat unless told to do so, do not talk to other examinees, and do not retrieve the brown bag or other belongings. The Board tries to resolve issues as quickly as possible within the context of a secure examination.

## 9. CONVERSATIONS

You are not permitted to converse or otherwise communicate with anyone other than a proctor or Board staff during any testing session.<sup>11</sup> This prohibition includes even casual comments to other examinees in the restroom or other parts of the Secure Area during a testing session, which includes during the instructions continues until you are dismissed. Communicating with anyone during a testing session **will disqualify you from the exam and nullify your scores.**

Please be mindful that there are people testing on a schedule different from yours in an area proximate to your testing area, so it is important to remain as quiet as possible in any secure area, before testing begins and after testing ends each day.

## 10. END OF EXAM SESSION

**As noted above, NO early dismissals from any examination session are permitted.** When time is called, you must STOP typing, writing, reading, or filling in bubbles immediately. Continuing the test after “STOP” is called is a violation of the Honor Pledge. You will be reported to the Board, your exam results will be nullified, and you may be required to appear before the Board at a hearing into your character and fitness or take other actions. **Violation of exam security and/or proctor instructions will result in nullification of your scores.**

You must upload your constructed response answers for the MPT and MEE on or before the stated deadline (see Paragraph B-5, above) or your answers will not be graded.

When you are dismissed, please remember that there are others who have not completed the examination and remain quiet as you depart. **Sharing any information about the content of the examination is a violation of the Honor Pledge.**

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<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

## E. HONOR PLEDGE

During the last session of the examination, a Pledge Card will be placed at your seat. The Chief Proctor will provide instructions after time is called about completing the card. You will complete the card and sign with your pencil. *By so signing, you are affirming that you have not violated the Security Policy, cheated, given or received assistance on the examination, or otherwise compromised the integrity of the Bar Exam, that you will not share information regarding the exam, and that if you observed anyone else doing so before, during, or after the examination, you have fulfilled or will fulfill your ethical duty to report your observations to a proctor or Board staff at the exam site or by email to the Board during or after the examination.* If you cannot honestly sign the pledge, you must speak with the Chief Proctor prior to leaving the testing area.

## F. TEST COMPONENTS

### 1. DAY 1 – AM SESSION: MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST 1 & 2

The MPT is an exam designed to test your ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation and to complete a task a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. You will be provided two booklets, MPT-1 and MPT-2, each with a separate scenario and related documents. MPT-1 has a purple cover; MPT-2, a green cover. For more information about the MPT, see “About NCBE Exams” at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).

- The name of the Examplify morning answer files and password for the MPT answers will be on the front page of the laptop instruction page that will be at your assigned seat.
- If you have a laptop issue, you will raise two fingers for technical assistance.

The Chief Proctor will post a sign indicating how much time is remaining (after each hour, when 30 minutes remain, and when 15 minutes remain) but there will not be a general announcement when half the time has passed; you must manage your time so that you answer both MPT questions in the allotted time. You must **remain in your seat** and refrain from talking during morning instruction, the last **30 minutes** of testing, and during the collection of all test materials.

If you finish early, sit quietly at your desk; no one is permitted to leave before time is called. You may exit the MPT to the Dashboard but must remain on that page; do not close your laptop. **Do not open the afternoon MEE session of the exam until you are instructed to do so after lunch.** The Chief Proctor will dismiss all examinees in an orderly manner after all materials have been collected and properly accounted. You must wear your Exam Badge during lunch to be permitted back in the testing room.

### 2. DAY 1 – PM SESSION: MULTISTATE ESSAY EXAMINATION

The MEE is an examination consisting of six (6) 30-minute essay questions. You will have 3 hours to answer the MEE questions. Answers to MEE questions should apply generally accepted fundamental legal principles to issues raised in each question. For more information about the MEE, see “About NCBE Exams” at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).

- If you are using a laptop, the name of the essay answer file and the password will be provided by the Chief Proctor during Instructions.
- If you have a laptop issue, you will raise two fingers for technical assistance.

The Chief Proctor will post a sign indicating how much time is remaining (after each hour, when 30 minutes remain, and when 15 minutes remain) but there will not be a general announcement when half the time has passed. You must **remain in your seat** and refrain from talking during morning instruction, the last **30 minutes** of testing, and during the collection of all test materials.

If you finish early, sit quietly at your desk; no one is permitted to leave before time is called. You may exit the MEE exam screen to the Dashboard and must remain at that page with your laptop open until you are directed to log out and close the laptop. The Chief Proctor will dismiss all examinees in an orderly manner after all materials have been collected and properly accounted. **Leave your lanyard and Exam Badge at your seat for the following morning. Anyone removing the lanyard and/or Exam Badge from the secure area will not be permitted to enter the Secure Area for testing the following day.** See B-4, above

### 3. DAY 2 – MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATION

The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) consists of 200 multiple-choice questions, divided equally into two 3-hour testing sessions with a lunch break between sessions. For more information about the MBE, see “NCBE Exams” at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).

- The MBE is machine-graded and you must use No. 2 pencils. You will enter your answers on the Scantron answer grid with a Number 2 pencil.
- Pencil sharpeners will be provided by the Board of Law Examiners. You must bring No. 2 pencils (up to 4) and may bring up to one pencil-top eraser. **You will need the last four digits of your Social Security Number; no one at the exam location has that information.**
- You must **remain in your seat** and refrain from talking during instructions at the start and end of each session, the last **30 minutes** of testing, and during the collection of all test materials; no one is permitted to leave until the Chief Proctor dismisses you. If you finish early, remain seated and refrain from talking.
- During the last 30 minutes of the afternoon session, proctors will place the Pledge Card at your exam table. Do not complete the card until instructed to do so by the Chief Proctor.
- When time is called, you must remain seated and refrain from talking until proctors and staff collect and account for all testing materials. All MBE materials must be counted and reconciled before examinees are dismissed.
- You must wear your Exam Badge during lunch to be permitted back in the testing room.
- In the afternoon, you will receive the Pledge Card which you will complete by following the Chief Proctor instructions. Proctors will collect the cards while test materials are reconciled. **Your exam scores will not be released if you do not turn in a signed Pledge Card.** See “Honor Pledge,” Paragraph E.
- When instructed to do so by the Chief Proctor, take your Exam Badge out of the badge holder and place it on your desk; a proctor will collect it.

You will be dismissed after all materials are reconciled. As you leave the testing area, please discard your lanyard in the trash cans (although you are welcome to keep it).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> For those testing over more than two days, place the lanyard on your desk each evening and do not remove the badge until the last day.

**DAY 2: THE DEADLINE FOR UPLOAD OF ESSAY ANSWERS IS  
9:00 P.M. CT, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026.  
YOUR ANSWERS WILL NOT BE GRADED IF YOU FAIL TO UPLOAD BY THE DEADLINE.**

## **G: FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES**

If a proctor gives you or the room in which you are testing an instruction, you must follow it. Failure to follow Board Policies and Procedures, written instructions, and Proctor Instructions during the exam or while at the exam location in a Secure Area will result in dismissal from the exam and nullification of exam scores. Further, an applicant dismissed from the exam might be required to appear before the Board for a character and fitness hearing prior to re-applying for a subsequent examination.

## **H: POST-EXAM INTERVIEW AND DEADLINES FOR MODIFYING LOCATION**

First-time applicants who are not licensed and/or are not in good standing in at least one other U.S. jurisdiction, some re-examination applicants, and any other applicant referred by the Board, even if licensed in another jurisdiction, must appear for an in-person interview as part of the character and fitness investigation. A member of the District Investigatory Committee in the district you designated on your application will contact you to **schedule the interview during the time between the exam and grade release, usually by late August**. You selected the county in which you wanted to interview as part of your application. **You may email the Board to change your interview county prior to the exam by Wednesday, JULY 18, 2026.**

Maintain current contact information in your Synergy account or your interview and review by the Board will be delayed. You may update your profile address and phone number in Synergy and email the Board at [BLE.administrator@tncourts.gov](mailto:BLE.administrator@tncourts.gov) for changes to your email address at any time.

On rare occasions and only due to extenuating circumstances, the Board will approve a request to change your interview location *after the exam*. Such a request to change the county of your interview county **must be submitted in writing to [BLE.Administrator@tncourts.gov](mailto:BLE.Administrator@tncourts.gov) no later than ten (10) calendar days after the first day of the exam (August 7, 2026)**. Such request must include a description of the extenuating circumstances that give rise to the request. Selection of the wrong county or the need to travel to the interview location does not constitute extenuating circumstances. **The interview is a required component of the character and fitness investigation, except as provided above. You cannot be approved for licensing without completing the interview.**

## **I: TENNESSEE LAW COURSE**

The TLC is a 7 ½ hour online course on Tennessee Law that must be completed to be eligible for licensing and admission in Tennessee. Approximately 2 weeks after the bar examination, you will receive a registration application for the Tennessee Law Course (TLC) in your Synergy application menu. You may register for the TLC once the application is available. After you register, you will receive an email with a link to the TLC.

## **J: GRADING AND GRADE RELEASE**

Upon completion of the JULY 2026 bar examination in Tennessee, you will earn a Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) score that may be accepted for admission in other jurisdictions. For your score to be

accepted for admission in Tennessee, you must score at least 270 out of 400. Answers to the MPT and MEE questions are graded on, among other things, identification of issues, application of fundamental legal principles, organization of your answer, responsiveness to the call of the question, and cogency of the arguments put forth. Written components are separated into 6 levels with 1 the lowest and 6 the highest, and then scaled to the MBE to achieve a total scaled score, with the scaled score broken down as follows: 20% MPT, 30% MEE, 50% MBE. For more information on scaled scoring, please see this May 2014 article from [The Bar Examiner](#), a publication of the NCBE. The Tennessee Board of Law Examiners does not regrade MPT or MEE answers and does not release answers, absent an order of the Supreme Court, as answers are a confidential record of the Board.

**Your only recourse in the event of an unsuccessful examination is re-examination.**

GRADE RELEASE: JULY 2026 bar exam results are scheduled to be released **on Thursday, October 1, 2026, by 2:30 p.m. CT. Note that this date may change.** Please do not CALL OR EMAIL the Board to ask if results will be released before this date or when results will be posted on grade release day. Although never anticipated, if the date grades are to be released changes, you will be notified by email and notice will be posted on the Board website at [www.tnble.org](http://www.tnble.org). We will deliver results of the Bar Exam as follows:

- By e-mail to you. It is important to [keep your e-mail address updated](#) in Synergy. Login and navigate to “My Profile.” If you are using a school email address (you@lawschool.edu), consider changing your email address as law schools may delete your account after you graduate.
- **On our website.** We will post a list of the names of successful examinees on the Board’s website at [https://bwp.tnble.org/?page\\_id=298](https://bwp.tnble.org/?page_id=298).

## K: CHARACTER AND FITNESS DETERMINATION

Until your application expires, you are approved for licensing, you withdraw your application, or you are denied admission, you are required to keep the Board informed of any changes in the information you have provided to the TBLE. If your answers to any of the questions in the NCBE background investigation application or the Synergy application change, you must submit an amendment to the TNBLE. The Board will not decide whether you meet the character and fitness standard of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7, Sec. 6.01, until you have achieved a UBE score of at least 270. If the Board finds you meet the character and fitness standard and you have completed the requirements for eligibility, your application will be approved for licensing. Otherwise, you will receive a letter from the Board with instructions and/or a show cause order. The communication from the Board will include a response deadline. Show Cause documents must comply with the requirements of Article XIII of Rule 7.

## L: SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS

If you petition the Board for waiver where permitted to do so under Rule 7, or petition for relief from a Board decision, and the petition is set for hearing, or you are issued a Show Cause Order, you will have to appear in person before the Board. Hearings are held twice a year, in June and December, at the office of the TBLE in Nashville, TN. Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7, Article XIII governs hearings before the BLE. You may be represented by counsel, although it is not required. You have the burden of proof, regardless of whether you appear on a petition to the Board or on an Order to Show Cause issued by the Board.

Hearings are set on a morning or afternoon docket. There are up to 10 hearings set for each docket. Hearings before the BLE are under oath and are recorded by a court reporter. The hearing is before at least three members of the Board but usually all five members are in attendance. When possible, the Board announces its decision at the conclusion of the hearing. However, not all matters are decided the day of

the hearing and may require post-hearing briefs or follow-up. As a general rule, the Board does not order transcripts of hearings once they are concluded but parties may order a transcript and provide a copy for the record to the BLE.

## M: ADDITIONAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

You are not eligible for admission to the Tennessee Bar until you satisfy all requirements set out in Rules 6 and 7 of the Tennessee Supreme Court Rules. Being approved to sit for the Tennessee Bar Examination does not mean that your character and fitness investigation is complete. You may pass the bar exam but not be eligible for licensing, pending completion of all steps in the licensing and admission process. In addition to achieving a score of at least 270 on the Uniform Bar Exam, requirements for licensing also include:

- Approval of the Character and Fitness requirements in Rule 7, §§ 6.01 and 6.03
- Passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE); and
- Completion of the Tennessee Law Course.

All of these requirements must be met prior to licensing. See: Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rules 6 and 7, and the [Policies and Procedures of the Board](#) on the TBLE website.

Once you have met all of the requirements to be eligible for licensing and admission, you must complete the following before you can practice law in Tennessee:

- Complete new attorney registration with the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility; and
- Take the oath of admission as required by Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 6.

If you do not satisfy *all* licensing and admission requirements within 2 years of the date you are notified by the Board that you earned a passing UBE score, you must submit an updated Character and Fitness Investigation application and, if required, appear for an in-person interview. **Scores are valid for licensing and admission for 3 years from the date grades are released.** See Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7, Section 4.07. Your license will be issued after you have completed attorney registration and been administered the Oath of Admission. For more information, please see [https://www.tnble.org/?page\\_id=236](https://www.tnble.org/?page_id=236).

## N: EXPIRATION OF APPLICATION

Your application for admission by examination or re-examination expires and closes upon the earlier of admission and issuance of a license, voluntary withdrawal of the application, denial of a license under Rule 7, Section 9.05, 30 days after entry of an order denying the application on character and fitness grounds, expiration of the examination score, or three years after the last submitted application for examination or re-examination. See Rule 7, Section 3.04. If your application expires and closes and you wish to seek admission by examination, you must reapply as a first-time examination applicant and re-submit all documentation.

[SAMPLE Acknowledgment Form next page]

Name:

(Print or Type Applicant Name as listed in your Synergy application)

## Acknowledgment JULY 2026 Examination General Instruction Manual for Tennessee

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**By affixing my signature below, I acknowledge, understand, and agree to the following:**

- The Tennessee Board of Law Examiners (the “Board”) is committed to a safe administration of the exam for all parties involved in taking and administering the exam. I will cooperate with the Board and Proctors in the administration of the exam consistent with public health guidelines.
- If I wear a mask, it is subject to inspection and cannot be vented, a gaiter, or a face shield.
- **I under that that I am expected to stay home if I am sick** with any illness including but not limited to the flu, stomach virus, Covid-19, bronchitis, RSV, or other contagious infection, or if you test positive for the flu, Covid-19, etc., 7 days prior to the examination through the end of the examination.

### OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**By affixing my signature below, I certify that I have downloaded and read the Tennessee [date] General Instruction Manual. My signature below reflects my acknowledgment, understanding, and acceptance of the following:**

- I am responsible for having read all of the information contained in this Manual, as well as the Board Policies and Procedure and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7, available on the Board [website](#).
- If I fail to follow Board Policies and Procedures, the Security Policy, and the instructions provided in this Manual and given by the Proctor during the July 2026 Examination, my scores will be nullified and unavailable to transfer to another UBE jurisdiction, I will be unsuccessful on the examination, and I may be ordered to appear before the Board for a character and fitness hearing.
- My only recourse in the event I am not successful on the July 2026 Examination is Re-Examination, as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7, §§ 13.02(a) and 14.04. I understand that I must submit a timely application for re-examination is unsuccessful on the examination.
- I understand that my answers are confidential records of the Board and will be released only as permitted by Board Policy. Once the grades are released, **my grade is final**, my answers will not be reviewed, and my only recourse is re-examination as provided in Rule 7, §§ 13.02(a) and 14.04.

Name:

(Print or Type Applicant Name as listed in your Synergy application)

- I acknowledge that the Examination is composed of materials subject to copyright that have been provided by the NCBE. Violations of the copyright protections will be prosecuted by the NCBE and may require you to appear before the Board.
- I acknowledge that I must use a laptop computer for testing, there are deadlines for registration, downloading the Software, and uploading the mock exam. If I fail to meet the deadline, I understand that I will not be eligible to take the July 2026 examination.
- I understand and acknowledge that registration closes at 8:45 a.m. and that anyone arriving after 9:00 a.m. for a morning session or 1:30 p.m. for an afternoon session will not be admitted to the exam room and will be withdrawn from the exam.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GENERAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL - SIGNATURE**

I swear or affirm that my typed name in the signature block or digital signature affixed to this document in combination with the login and password used to access my Synergy application to upload this form constitutes my signature with the same effect as if signed and notarized. **I swear or affirm that I have read the General Instruction Manual and that by signing this form, I agree that the acknowledgments, agreements, and understandings on this form are true and complete.**

Date:

Signature\* of Applicant:

\* Please use Adobe or other E-Sign digital signature to sign the form or use the format defined in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 46, Sec. 1.01(i): “s/” followed by your typewritten name, for example: “s/Your Name.” Once complete, print the form to a .pdf format. Save the .pdf with your last name, first name, and “Acknowledgment:” (i.e., Jones-Pat-Acknowledgment.pdf).

**A fillable .pdf version of this form is available [here](#) or with [exam forms](#).**

**Upload your signed Acknowledgment Form to your Synergy application under related item, “Acknowledgment: TN Bar Exam General Instructions,” on or before the Final Deadline for Applications for Admission (December 20 (Feb) or May 20 (July)).**

## APPENDIX – REQUIRED, PERMITTED, OR APPROVED ITEM GUIDANCE

### POWER ADAPTERS

IF YOU HAVE A POWER CORD/ADAPTER LIKE THIS:



TAKE OUT THIS SMALL REMOVABLE PIECE:



It will look like this:



AND REPLACE IT WITH AN EXTENSION LIKE THIS:



This way your power cord will not take up more than one outlet.

1 Foot



If your block does not have a removable plug, you may bring a small adapter like the one above.

## PERMITTED SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS

### Sweaters:



*Crew, V, Turtle- neck, Cardigan & Quarter Zip Sweaters*

### Sweatshirts:



*Crew and V neck – no hoods*



*Quarter Zip sweatshirt without a hood*

**Examples of PROHIBITED SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS:**



*NO HOODIES ALLOWED 1*



*No Tactical Gear or Clothing with extra pockets or internal pockets*

**ERASERS: THE FOLLOWING TYPE OF PENCIL CAP ERASERS ARE PERMITTED**



*Permitted Pencil top erasers 1*

**THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES BUT NOT AN EXCLUSIVE LIST OF NON-CONFORMING ITEMS. IF A PROCTOR INSTRUCTS YOU THAT A PEN IS NON-CONFORMING, GIVE IT TO THE PROCTOR.**



*Prohibited Erasers*