

Maryland State Board of Law Examiners
FAQs for the NextGen UBE in Maryland

1. What is the NextGen UBE?

The NextGen UBE is a new bar exam, created by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Detailed information on the NextGen UBE, including its format, content, scoring, and delivery system, may be found at [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

2. When will Maryland begin to use the NextGen UBE?

The Maryland State Board of Law Examiners (SBLE) will administer the NextGen UBE beginning in July 2026. Information on Maryland's decision to adopt the NextGen UBE is [HERE](#).

3. Will Maryland's change to the NextGen UBE cause any change to the bar application process?

No. Maryland's change to the NextGen UBE is not expected to cause any significant change to the Maryland bar application process. First time bar applicants will be required to file a Character Questionnaire (CQ) and a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Take the UBE in Maryland. Repeat exam takers will be required to file a Notice of Intent for each subsequent bar exam. Repeat exam takers will be required to file an updated CQ when their most recent CQ has been on file for three years or more at the time they seek to file a NOI.

4. Will Maryland's change to the NextGen UBE cause a change to the fees paid by applicants?

SBLE does not expect to increase the fees it collects from applicants (\$400 NOI; \$350 CQ; \$100 CQ update) for the July 2026 and February 2027 exam sessions. SBLE will evaluate its revenue and operating expenses after the February 2027 exam session before making any decisions on fee changes.

The NextGen UBE is a computer-based test (CBT), which applicants will take using their own laptop computer. Every individual taking the NextGen UBE in Maryland will be required to pay a technology fee (currently expected to be \$149) directly to NCBE or its vendor for use of the exam delivery platform.

5. How will Maryland's change to the NextGen UBE affect the transfer of UBE scores to and from Maryland?

NCBE has announced that the current Uniform Bar Examination (the "Legacy UBE") exam materials will be offered concurrently with the NextGen UBE between July 2026 and February 2028, and that, beginning with the July 2028 administration of the bar exam, the NextGen UBE materials will become the sole basis for UBE score portability between UBE jurisdictions.

Maryland will accept scores earned on the NextGen UBE beginning as soon as scores are released following the July 2026 NextGen UBE and continuing thereafter pursuant to Board Rule 5(b).

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After Maryland begins to administer the NextGen UBE, Maryland will continue to accept transferred scores from states administering the Legacy UBE for as long as those scores remain valid under Board Rule 5(b). As such, Maryland will accept Legacy UBE scores earned in July 2026 until July 31, 2029; February 2027 Legacy UBE scores until February 28, 2030; July 2027 Legacy UBE scores until July 31, 2030; and February 2028 Legacy UBE scores until February 29, 2031.

Applicants planning to register for the July 2026 NextGen UBE in Maryland who may be interested in transferring their score out of Maryland in addition to becoming admitted in Maryland should check with the UBE jurisdiction to which they plan to transfer for more information about that jurisdiction's expected policies on transferred NextGen UBE scores.