

NCBE TESTING MILESTONES

1931	The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) is founded with the aim of increasing the efficiency of state bar admission boards.
1969	NCBE establishes a Committee on Bar Examinations to study the bar examining process. The committee discusses the possibility of creating a uniform multiple-choice bar examination that could help reduce the grading burden for jurisdictions.
1970	NCBE's Board of Managers establishes a standing bar examination committee to begin developing a six-hour multiple-choice bar examination. NCBE receives a grant from the American Bar Foundation to help cover the costs of developing the exam. Boards of bar examiners, law school deans, and law school faculty are surveyed to gather suggestions for subject matter coverage. Drafting committees, made up of bar examiners and law school faculty, are formed, and NCBE contracts with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to provide technical support for the exam.
1971	Meetings are held in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco to present the new multiple-choice bar examination to jurisdictions. Representatives from 42 jurisdictions attend.
1972	The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) is administered for the first time to a total of 4,955 examinees from nineteen jurisdictions. The exam contains 200 scored questions in five subject areas: Contracts, Criminal Law, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. ETS scores and provides statistics on the exam.
1974	The MBE is equated for the first time, using a linear model.
1975	Constitutional Law is added as an MBE subject.
1976	Discussions of a multistate professional responsibility examination begin. Development of the exam is supported by ACT.
1980	The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is administered for the first time to approximately 4,000 examinees from six jurisdictions. Questions are based on the ABA Model Code of Professional Responsibility.
1980	NCBE begins studying performance testing, co-sponsoring studies by the California Committee of Bar Examiners.
1982	An MBE content validity study is completed.
1982	NCBE begins developing an essay examination.
1983	MPRE questions are now based on both the ABA Model Code of Professional Responsibility and the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct.
1984	MBE development, scoring, and equating moves from ETS to ACT.
1988	The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) is administered for the first time in six jurisdictions. It contains six questions (two 50-minute questions and four 20-minute

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	questions) drawn from the six MBE subjects and three additional subjects (Civil Procedure; Corporations; and Wills, Estates, and Trusts). ACT provides technical support.
1990	NCBE conducts surveys and holds meetings with jurisdictions about MEE subject coverage.
1992	An MBE content validity study is completed.
1993	MEE subject matter coverage is changed so that there is no overlap with the MBE. MEE subjects are now Business Organizations (Agency & Partnership and Corporations); Conflict of Laws; Commercial Transactions (Negotiable Instruments, Sales, and Secured Transactions); Family Law; Federal Civil Procedure; and Wills, Estates, and Trusts (Decedents' Estates and Trusts & Future Interests). Seven 30-minute MEE questions are now offered to jurisdictions for each administration.
1993	NCBE conducts a pilot study on performance testing. Based on the results of the study and jurisdiction input, NCBE's Long Range Planning Committee recommends the creation of a performance test.
1997	The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) is administered for the first time in four jurisdictions. ACT provides technical support.
1999	MPRE questions are now based exclusively on the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct.
2002	The American Bar Association (ABA), the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), and the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) discuss the feasibility and merit of a uniform bar exam. Representatives from the ABA, the AALS, the CCJ, and NCBE form a Joint Working Group on Legal Education and Bar Admissions.
2003	NCBE surveys jurisdictions about MEE subject-matter coverage and begins studying the possibility of adding MBE subjects back to the MEE.
2005	Equating for the MBE changes from a linear model to 3PL IRT.
2005	NCBE takes over test development and production for the MEE and MPT from ACT.
2005	Pretesting of MPRE questions begins.
2007	Pretesting of MBE questions begins.
2007	MEE subject matter coverage is changed to include MBE topics; Article 2 (Sales) is tested under the Contracts test specifications rather than the Uniform Commercial Code. Nine MEE questions are now offered to jurisdictions for each administration.
2007	NCBE takes over MPRE test development from ACT.
2009	NCBE takes over MPRE equating from ACT.
2009	NCBE takes over MBE test development from ACT.
2011	NCBE takes over MBE scoring and equating from ACT.

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2011	The Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) is administered for the first time in two jurisdictions.
2012	A job analysis study is completed by AMP on behalf of NCBE to describe the job activities of newly licensed lawyers.
2013	LSAC replaces ACT as the contractor for registration and administration of the MPRE. ADA decisions, scoring, and score reporting for the MPRE are brought in-house.
2014	The number of MEE questions offered is reduced from nine to six.
2015	Civil Procedure is added as an MBE subject.
2015	Negotiable Instruments is removed as an MEE subject.
2017	The number of MBE pretest questions is increased from 10 to 25 of the 200 total questions on each form.
2018	NCBE appoints a Testing Task Force charged with undertaking a three-year study to ensure that the bar examination continues to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent entry-level legal practice in the 21 st century.

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