

## Frequently Asked Questions: 2020 Delaware Bar Exam

1. Why is the Board of Bar Examiners holding the 2020 Delaware Bar Exam at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington this year?

Delaware remains under the State of Emergency issued by the Governor because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Bar Examiners performed extensive research to identify a testing site that (1) is available on short notice for the rescheduled bar exam dates and (2) meets all of the requirements for the safe, secure, and efficient administration of the Delaware Bar Exam under the current COVID-19 pandemic circumstances, including the State of Delaware Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines and the CDC Guidelines. The Delaware State Fairgrounds (“State Fairgrounds”) in Harrington is available for the rescheduled Bar Exam dates and is better suited to meet all of the requirements than any other venue under the current circumstances. The move from the Bar Exam’s traditional location at The Widener University Delaware Law School was not undertaken lightly, and the shift to the State Fairgrounds is the only way to safely and securely administer an in-person test this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. What kinds of facilities will applicants be testing in at Harrington?

The State Fairgrounds has multiple free-standing, enclosed, air-conditioned buildings suitable for exam administration. The Board has selected four buildings that will be utilized exclusively for the Delaware Bar Exam over our testing dates. Applicants will be assigned to test in one of those four buildings. The buildings are clearly marked and ample parking is available. Additional information regarding each applicant’s specific testing location will be provided on the Admission Ticket that applicants will receive prior to the Bar Exam.

3. Will the Delaware State Fair coincide with the Bar Exam?

No. The annual state fair and all of its associated activities occur only once per year, at the end of July. The test site will be devoted to the administration of the Delaware Bar Exam on the testing dates.

4. Is the State Fairgrounds going to be the permanent location for the Delaware Bar Exam?

No. The State Fairgrounds is only available as a location for the Delaware Bar Exam this year because the Bar Exam is being administered in September. The Delaware Bar Exam and the annual state fair typically occur during the same time period. The Board anticipates, but cannot guarantee, that the 2021 Bar Exam will be held in New Castle County, as in prior years.

5. What is the Board doing to keep applicants safe while administering the Bar Exam during the pandemic?

The Board is following the Phase 2 Delaware Reopening Guidelines published by the Governor's Office, as well as CDC Guidelines and best practices for safe exam administration.

Right now, this includes but is not limited to: staging the arrival and departure times of applicants into and out of testing buildings to enforce social distancing requirements; performing health screenings and temperature checks of applicants and staff members prior to the exam; providing each applicant with their own appropriately social distanced 8-foot table or testing space; requiring applicants and staff to wear a face covering at all times while at the testing facilities; deep cleaning the testing facilities before the first session of the Exam and at the end of each Exam day; frequently sanitizing the high-touch areas in the testing facilities; and providing hand sanitizer stations for use by applicants and staff throughout the testing facilities.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will make any additional adjustments as warranted by the Governor's Emergency Declaration and Reopening Guidelines, CDC guidance, and other best practices in effect.

6. Where might applicants stay if they want to be in close proximity to the State Fairgrounds?

There are many online travel resources that applicants may consult to determine what lodging accommodations will best suit their needs. Dover and Milford are within a 25-30 minute drive from Harrington.

7. Can applicants bring a purse/backpack/bag to the Bar Exam?

Applicants are permitted to bring a clear, one-quart plastic bag with approved personal items and a second clear, one-quart plastic bag containing a lunch that does not require refrigeration into the testing facility. Applicants also may bring a completely clear one-quart (32 oz.) sized bottle of water with a sports top and no labels or markings to each session of the examination. Applicants will not be permitted to bring any other items into any testing facility. Applicants should consult the Admission Ticket that they will receive prior to the exam for more information about these requirements.

Applicants may leave their personal belongings in their cars or in lockers that the Board will provide outside the testing buildings. Applicants will have access to their assigned lockers immediately prior to the first session of each exam day and immediately after the last session of each exam day. Due to NCBE requirements for the start times of the Bar Exam, applicants will not have access to the lockers during the lunch intermission. Applicants will be encouraged to take home any belongings that they store in their lockers after each exam day. Applicants will not have access to the lockers after hours, and the Board will not assume liability for any personal belongings that are stored in a locker.

8. Will Applicants be able to leave the State Fairgrounds to purchase lunch?

Applicants may bring a lunch that does not require refrigeration in a clear, one-quart plastic bag that they will be permitted to place under their table during the morning session of the Bar Exam.

Due to NCBE requirements for Bar Exam start times, the break between morning and afternoon testing sessions is only 20 minutes long. This break does not allow sufficient time for an applicant to leave the testing site for lunch.

and return in a timely fashion. An applicant who chooses to go off premises for lunch and misses the scheduled return time will not be permitted back into their testing building until all of the other applicant groups have been seated. An applicant who starts the afternoon session late will not be granted any additional time for that session.

9. Will the Board provide water or snacks for applicants during the Bar Exam?

No. Because best practices and CDC Guidelines recommend limiting the number of items that are touched by multiple people, the Board will not be providing water bottles or snacks for applicants at any time during the administration of the Bar Exam. Applicants also should note that they will not have access to any water fountains during the Bar Exam. Applicants are encouraged to bring a one-quart (32 oz.) sized bottle of water with a sports top to each session of the examination. The bottle must be completely clear, with no labels or markings. The bottle must remain on the floor by the applicant's testing space at all times when not in use.

10. What other changes to the Delaware Bar Exam should applicants expect this year?

As indicated in the May 11, 2020 notice applicants received from the Board, the order of testing has changed this year to conform to NCBE requirements. Applicants will take the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) on September 9, 2020, the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) on September 10, 2020, and the Delaware Essay Exam on September 11, 2020.

With respect to the administration of the Bar Exam, the Board notes that the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation that changes frequently. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate any necessary changes to applicants directly through their online bar applications. Applicants will need to be flexible and to check the notifications section of their applications frequently. The Board appreciates applicants' understanding, cooperation and patience as it implements the changes that allow Delaware to hold an in-person exam this year.

11. Where will the Delaware Bar Exam be administered in 2021?

The Board will begin securing a site for the 2021 exam shortly after administration of the 2020 exam. The Board anticipates, but does not guarantee, that it will hold the 2021 Delaware Bar Exam in New Castle County. The final selection of the 2021 Bar Exam location will depend on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and any restrictions or guidelines in place next year.