

In the Supreme Court of Iowa

CLERK SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of Adoption of)
Iowa Court Rules Implementing) Order
the Uniform Bar Examination)

By order dated August 4, 2015, the Iowa Supreme Court adopted the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) as the examination for admission to the Iowa bar. The UBE will be the Iowa bar admissions examination beginning in February 2016. Upon adoption of the UBE, the court requested public comment on proposed amendments to Chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules incorporating the UBE into Iowa's bar admissions process.

The court appreciates receiving feedback on proposed rule amendments and has carefully considered the comments received on this matter.

The court now adopts the amendments to chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules governing admission to the bar. The amendments are necessary to accommodate UBE requirements and include the following:

- 1. Eliminating transfer and banking of Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) scores. The rules simplify the admission by examination process by having all applicants take the UBE.
2. Requiring that applicants take the MBE, the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), and the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) in one exam administration to earn a UBE score that is transferable to another UBE jurisdiction.
3. Setting the fee for applying for admission by transferred UBE score at \$525 (same as the admission motion fee).
4. Requiring that a transfer applicant must have an LL.B. or a J.D. degree from an ABA-approved law school.
5. Providing that a transfer applicant must have a Multistate Professional Responsibility (MPRE) score of at least 80.

6. Allowing applicants to transfer a certified UBE score of at least 266 from one of the last four UBE administrations prior to the application date without a showing of legal practice.
7. Permitting attorney applicants to transfer a UBE score of at least 266 up to five years after the examination was taken if the attorney can prove a regular engagement in the practice of law for at least two of the three years immediately preceding the application.
8. Requiring a complete character and fitness investigation for each transfer applicant and can require the applicant to obtain an NCBE investigative report.
9. Providing automatic reviews for examinations in a score range of 260 to 265, but the Board will not conduct reviews after bar results are released.

The amendments to chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules are provided with this order. These amendments are effective immediately.

Dated this 15th day of October, 2015.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice