

Topics and Courses

Students interested in maximizing their chances of passing the Missouri, Kansas, or another state’s bar examination frequently enroll in elective courses that cover topics regularly tested on the bar examination. The table below lists the subject areas—“Bar Exam Topics”—tested on the Uniform Bar Examination given in over forty jurisdictions, including Missouri and Kansas, followed by the names of actual UMKC course offerings that address those subjects.

If you are planning to take the bar exam in a jurisdiction that administers its own bar exam, such as California, Florida, and Nevada, then be sure to check the subject matter coverage of that jurisdiction to assist your decision-making. Other states test vastly different topics including Federal Taxation, Commercial Transactions, Professional Responsibility.

Uniform Bar Examination (including Missouri and Kansas) for the Classes of 2024 and 2025

The first seven topics are addressed both in the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question multiple choice test written by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and in the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), also written by the National Conference of Bar Examiners portions of the Uniform Bar Examination. The next topics are only tested as part of the essay component of the Bar Exam. The essay portion of the exam also contains two Multistate Performance Tests (MPT) authored by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Subject matter outlines, sample questions from past exams, and model answers for the MBE and MEE topics, as well as the MPT, are available on the NCBE website. [MEE Subject Matter Outline \(ncbex.org\)](https://www.ncbex.org/subject-matter-outline).

Bar Exam Topics	UMKC Course Offerings	Semester
Civil Procedure (MBE & Essay)	Civil Procedure—Pleadings	First Year
	Civil Procedure—Jurisdiction	Second Year
	Federal Jurisdiction	
	Complex Litigation	
Contracts and Sales (MBE & Essay)	Contracts I and II	First Year
	Sales & Leasing	
	Remedies	

Constitutional Law (MBE & Essay)	Constitutional Law	Spring
	First Amendment	
	Law & Religion	
	Seminar in the Supreme Court	
Criminal Law and Procedure (MBE & Essay)	Criminal Law	First Year
	Criminal Procedure I	Fall/Spring
	Criminal Procedure II	
Evidence (MBE & Essay)	Evidence	Second Year
	Trial Advocacy I, II, and III	
	Federal Trial Practice	
Real Property (MBE & Essay)	Property I and II	First Year
	Real Estate Transactions	
	Land Use	
Torts (MBE & Essay)	Torts	First Year
	Business Torts	
	Defamation, Emotional, and Privacy Torts	
	Products Liability	
	Remedies	
Agency and Partnership (MEE)	Business Organizations	Fall
	Business Planning	
Conflict of Laws (MEE)	Conflict of Laws	
	Civil Procedure—Jurisdiction	Second Year
Corporations (MEE)	Business Organizations	Fall
	Business Planning	
Decedents' Estates (MEE)	Estates and Trusts	
	Estate Planning & Drafting Lab	
Family Law (MEE)	Family Law	
	Children and the Law	

Secured Transactions (MEE)	Secured Transactions	
Trusts and Future Interests (MEE)	Property I and II	First Year
	Estates and Trusts	
	Introduction to Trusts	
	Estate Planning & Drafting Lab	
Multistate Performance Test (MPT)	Lawyering Skills I and II	First Year
	Civil Procedure—Pleadings	Fall/Spring
	Legal Analysis and Methods	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Litigation Drafting	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Business Contract Drafting	

Required Course
Substantial Bar Exam Coverage

NextGen Bar Examination for the Classes of 2026 and later

The NextGen Bar Examination (NextGen) is scheduled to debut in July 2026. The Class of 2026, 1Ls in the Fall 2023 semester, will be the first to take the exam.

The exam is designed to reflect many changes law schools are making today to bring more focus on lawyering skills in addition to fundamental legal concepts. The NextGen bar exam will test a more focused set of clearly identified fundamental legal concepts and principles needed in today's practice of law.

In addition to the foundational concepts in the eight topics, the NextGen exam has identified four sets of foundational skills that will also be assessed:

- Issue spotting and analysis, investigation, and evaluation.
- Client counseling and advising, negotiation and dispute resolution, client relationship and management
- Legal research
- Legal writing and drafting

The NextGen exam will integrate one or more of these foundational skills in context of a scenario that raises one or more substantive or procedural legal issues. In addition to similar short essays, multiple-choice, and performance tests, NextGen will add short answer question format as well as fill-in-the-blank items.

Subject matter outlines are currently available on the NCBE website and sample questions are forth-coming. <https://nextgenbarexam.ncbex.org/pdfviewer/ncbe-nextgen-content-scope-may-24-2023/>

Bar Exam Topics	UMKC Course Offerings	Semester
Civil Procedure	Civil Procedure—Pleadings	First Year
	Civil Procedure—Jurisdiction	Second Year
	Federal Jurisdiction	
	Complex Litigation	
Contracts and Sales	Contracts I and II	First Year
	Sales & Leasing	
	Remedies	
Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law	Spring
	First Amendment	
	Second Amendment	
	Law and Religion	
	Seminar in the Supreme Court	
Criminal Law and Procedure	Criminal Law	First Year
	Criminal Procedure I	Fall/Spring
Evidence	Evidence	Second Year
	Trial Advocacy I, II, and III	
	Criminal Trial Techniques	
	Federal Trial Practice	
Real Property	Property I and II	First Year
	Real Estate Transactions	
	Land Use	
Torts	Torts	First Year
	Products Liability	

	Remedies	
	Business Torts	
Agency and Partnership (MEE)	Business Organizations	Fall
	Business Planning	
Corporations	Business Organizations	Fall
	Business Planning	
Multistate Performance Test (MPT)	Lawyering Skills I and II	First Year
	Civil Procedure—Pleadings	Fall/Spring
	Legal Analysis and Methods	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Litigation Drafting	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills	
Foundational Skills	Advanced Legal Writing: Business Contract Drafting	First Year
	Lawyering Skills I and II	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Litigation Drafting	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills	
	Advanced Legal Writing: Business Contract Drafting	
	Advanced Legal Research	
	Appellate Advocacy: Ellison Moot Court Competition and others	
	Client Interviewing	
	Clinics	
	Developing Legal Research Skills	
	Externships	
	Judicial Clerkships	
	Learning from Practice	
	Mediation	
Mental Health Investigations	Second/Third Year	
Professional Responsibility		
Taking and Defending Depositions		

	Transactional Lawyering Skills Lab	
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Required Course
Substantial Bar Exam Coverage