

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. Missouri will switch to the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam in July 2026. Kansas will continue with the Uniform Bar Examination. Thenm 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.

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 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 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 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. [NextGen Content Scope | NCBE](#). Family Law will be added in July 2028.

Bar Exam Topics	UMKC Course Offerings	Semester
Business Associations	Business Organizations	Fall
	Business Planning	

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	
Family Law (Starting in July 2028)	Family Law	
	Children and the Law	
Real Property	Property I and II	First Year
	Real Estate Transactions	
	Land Use	
Torts	Torts	First Year
	Products Liability	
	Remedies	
	Business Torts	
Performance Task	Lawyering Skills I and II	First Year

	Advanced Legal Research	
	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	Second/Third Year
	Judicial Clerkships	
	Learning from Practice	
	Mediation	
	Mental Health Investigations	
	Professional Responsibility	
	Taking and Defending Depositions	
	Transactional Lawyering Skills Lab	

Required Course
Substantial Bar Exam Coverage