

**Michigan Board of Law Examiners**  
**July 2020 Bar Examination Initial Information**  
May 27, 2020

The predicate for the online July 2020 bar exam is the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Board of Law Examiner's (Board or BLE) effort to ensure the administration of an exam amidst numerous health issues and ever-changing restrictions on gatherings. As specified in the Supreme Court's order, "The exam will be conducted online, and will consist solely of the essay portion of the traditional exam." (Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-15, May 18, 2020.)

Except as noted below, the July 2020 bar exam will be administered remotely only. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and how conditions and any related restrictions may evolve, the Board will only consider accommodations required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will do so only for those applicants that timely applied for accommodations. The Board will individually contact applicants who have been approved for accommodations to determine the method of testing for each accommodated individual, assuming that federal and state restrictions permit such examination. If an in-person exam is permitted, applicants with ADA accommodations requiring an in-person exam will be required to adhere to federal and state health recommendations and will be notified of the requirements by July 1.

Those who registered to handwrite the exam must contact the Board to indicate whether they will test remotely by laptop, transfer to the February 2021 exam, or wish to receive a full refund and withdraw from the Michigan law licensing process.

All applicants who have registered to use a laptop will receive a registration email from ExamSoft in the latter part of June. Applicants must register with ExamSoft and are required to take a mock exam and submit photo identification at that time as part of the registration process. Any applicant who does not complete this step will not be able to take the exam.

Applicants are required to submit photo identification when beginning each module of the examination. Applicants must send either by email to [BLE-Info@courts.mi.gov](mailto:BLE-Info@courts.mi.gov) or U.S. Post a legible copy of the applicant's driver's license or other government photo identification to the Board that will be retained in the applicant's file for photo verification purposes.

**Initial ExamSoft Information/Computer Requirements**

All computers used for the remote exam must have audio and video capability. Applicants are solely responsible for procuring their own computers, securing a permitted location in which to take the exam, completing the exam in their own testing environment, and ensuring internet connectivity before and after each module of the exam.

The required computer specifications to take the exam are available on ExamSoft's website:

Mac: <https://examsoft.force.com/etcommunity/s/article/Exemplify-Minimum-System-Requirements-for-Mac-OS-X>

Windows: <https://examsoft.force.com/emcommunity/s/article/Exemplify-Minimum-System-Requirements-for-Windows>

The following is a link to an article that explains Exemplify, ExamID, and ExamMonitor from an exam taker's perspective.

<https://examsoft.force.com/etcommunity/s/article/Exemplify-with-ExamID-and-ExamMonitor>

### **Initial Exam General Information**

All applicants will begin the exam modules at the same time, irrespective of the time zone in which the applicants are taking the exam. The exam modules are limited to one hour consisting of three questions for those testing under standard conditions. Once a module begins, you must remain in your seat and in view of the camera while testing. A short period of time will be allotted between modules for comfort breaks and a lunch period will also be determined. There is no requirement that applicants be located in Michigan when testing. The exam will be set for Eastern Time. Details regarding the exact times for testing will be released by July 1.

Applicants are not required to have an internet connection while completing the modules but will need an internet connection to begin each module of the exam and to upload answers and video files after the exam. The Exemplify software prevents access to the internet and all other applications while testing is in progress.

The fifteen essay questions will be based on those topics specified in BLE Rule 3. Prior exam questions are posted on the BLE website.

The profession of law is an honorable one and all applicants are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. There will be zero tolerance for cheating.

The examination is **closed book. No access to notes, study aids, or any other type of assistance of any kind is permitted.**

Applicants are required to take the examination in a room by themselves and may not take the exam in a room with any other person. No scratch paper is permitted; however, the software contains a notes pop-up feature for use while testing. Applicants are required to remain in view of the computer video camera at all times during a testing session. Artificial intelligence and video will flag any irregularities. The Board will review irregularities and anyone determined to have cheated on the exam will be referred to character and fitness and may be denied a law license.

Additional information, including specific rules for the exam, will be posted on the BLE website as it becomes available. As stated in the May 18, 2020, Michigan Supreme Court Order, applicants have the affirmative obligation to check the Board's website for updates, instructions, and other vital information.