

The Procedure for Scoring the July 2020 Michigan Bar Examination

As the result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and as directed by the Supreme Court, in consultation with the Board of Law Examiners (Board), the July 2020 Michigan Bar Examination “will be conducted online, and will consist solely of the essay portion of the traditional exam.” (Sup. Ct. Adm. Order No. 2020-15, May 18, 2020.) As a result, the Board provides this information pertaining to scoring the July 2020 bar examination.

The Board’s grading objective is to score the exam as consistently as possible with prior administrations of the full Michigan Bar Examination. As a result, and after consultation with the Board’s testing expert, the Board will utilize, to the greatest extent possible, the same scoring methodology that has been used since 2014. In other words, the Board will use the existing formula that has been developed to produce a scaled essay score. Because the MBE is not being administered, an applicant’s scaled essay score cannot be added to the applicant’s MBE score and then averaged to reach a combined score. Instead, for the July 2020 examination only, the scaled essay score will constitute the applicant’s total score. A total score of 135 or greater will still be needed to pass the bar examination.