University of South Dakota - 2025

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AMERICANBARASSOCIATION

Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

First-Time Bar Admission

Calendar year of graduation	Graduates in the calendar year	Graduates who took the bar exam before graduation*	Graduates who took bar exam after graduation*	Grads who have not taken the bar	Grads with no bar info	First time takers from prior grad years	Total first-time takers	Total who passed the bar	Law school bar pass rate**	ABA weighted average bar pass rate***	Difference in bar pass rate****	Graduates admitted via alternative pathways to licensure *****	Total First-Time Bar Admission Rate: first time takers and alternative pathways to licensure
2024	83	1	66	16	0	6	73	53	72.60%	78.62%	-6.02%	0	72.60%
2023	57	0	51	6	0	4	55	37	67.27%	78.50%	-11.23%	0	67.27%
2022	82	-	-	9	0	6	79	57	72.15%	79.53%	-7.38%	0	72.15%

*For 2022, the ABA did not collect information about "graduates who took the bar exam before graduation" and "graduates who took the bar exam after graduation" as it does currently, so those data fields are not included in this report.

**Law School pass rate is how the Law School's graduates performed across all jurisdictions where they took the bar examination for the first time.

***The ABA weighted average bar pass rate is the average pass rate for graduates from ABA-accredited law schools for each jurisdiction in which the Law School's graduates sat for the bar exam. This number is weighted so that bar pass rates from jurisdictions where more of the Law School's graduates sat for the bar exam have a greater impact on the ABA weighted average bar pass rate than bar pass rates from jurisdictions where fewer of the Law School's graduates sat for the bar exam.

****The difference between the Law School pass rate and the ABA weighted average bar pass rate compares the performance of the Law School's graduates on the bar exam in all jurisdictions where they took the bar exam for the first time with the performance of graduates from all ABA-accredited law schools on the bar exam in those same jurisdictions.

***** Starting with the 2025 Bar Admission Outcome report, graduates pursuing alternative pathways to bar licensure were no longer reported both in the category with graduates who did not take a bar exam and in the category of graduates admitted via alternative pathways. This change is reflected for 2024 graduates in the First-Time Bar Admission table, but does not impact the Total First-Time Bar Admission Rate.

Details 2024:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
SOUTH DAKOTA	46	34	73.91%	76.83%	-2.92%
13 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	27	19	70.37%	78.87%	-8.50%

Details 2023:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
SOUTH DAKOTA	38	29	76.32%	77.59%	-1.27%
8 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	17	8	47.06%	78.28%	-31.22%

Details 2022:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
SOUTH DAKOTA	55	43	78.18%	79.27%	-1.09%
11 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	24	14	58.33%	76.66%	-18.33%

Two-Year Ultimate Bar Admission

Calendar year of graduation	Total graduates in calendar year	# of grads with no info	# who did not take a bar	Graduates who sat for a bar exam within two years of their date of graduation			Graduates who have been admitted via an alternative pathway to licensure*	Ultimate Bar Admission Rate Total % (incl. alternative pathways)
				# of takers	# who passed	% who passed		
2022	82	0	4	78	72	92.31%	0	92.31%
2021	63	0	3	60	50	83.33%	0	83.33%
2020	55	0	2	53	46	86.79%	0	86.79%

* Starting with the 2025 Bar Admission Outcome report, graduates pursuing alternative pathways to bar licensure were no longer reported both in the category with graduates who did not take a bar exam and in the category of graduates admitted via alternative pathways. This change is reflected for 2022 graduates in the Two-Year Ultimate Bar Admission table, but does not impact the Ultimate Bar Admission Rate Total %.