Vanderbilt University Law School - 2026

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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	Council 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
2025	168	0	163	5	0	5	168	159	94.64%	81.93%	12.71%	0	94.64%
2024	166	0	159	7	0	5	164	155	94.51%	81.05%	13.46%	0	94.51%
2023	200	0	192	8	0	6	198	192	96.97%	77.81%	19.16%	0	96.97%

Details 2025:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for Council-accredited law schools	Difference
CALIFORNIA	15	15	100.00%	82.67%	17.33%
ILLINOIS	14	14	100.00%	81.09%	18.91%
NEW YORK	29	27	93.10%	87.27%	5.83%
TENNESSEE	40	38	95.00%	79.71%	15.29%
TEXAS	17	16	94.12%	82.67%	11.45%
22 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	53	49	92.45%	78.74%	13.71%

Details 2024:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for Council-accredited law schools	Difference
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	16	16	100.00%	85.01%	14.99%
NEW YORK	35	34	97.14%	86.30%	10.84%
TENNESSEE	38	37	97.37%	78.25%	19.12%
TEXAS	24	24	100.00%	81.48%	18.52%
18 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	51	44	86.27%	78.27%	8.00%

Details 2023:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for Council-accredited law schools	Difference
CALIFORNIA	11	9	81.82%	72.33%	9.49%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	17	17	100.00%	83.41%	16.59%
ILLINOIS	12	12	100.00%	78.28%	21.72%
NEW YORK	45	45	100.00%	82.96%	17.04%
TENNESSEE	35	32	91.43%	73.76%	17.67%
TEXAS	26	26	100.00%	79.17%	20.83%
21 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	52	51	98.08%	73.50%	24.58%

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		
2023	200	0	4	196	193	98.47%	0	98.47%
2022	179	0	2	177	169	95.48%	0	95.48%
2021	191	0	2	189	187	98.94%	0	98.94%

Definitions and Additional Information on the Bar Admission Report

First-Time Bar Admission Section

• **Law School Bar Pass Rate.** This percentage reflects how the law school's graduates performed across all jurisdictions where they took the bar examination for the first time.

• **Weighted Average Bar Pass Rate.** This percentage is the average pass rate for graduates from Council 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 weighted average bar pass rate than bar pass rates from jurisdictions where fewer of the law school's graduates sat for the bar exam.

• **Difference in Bar Pass Rate.** This percentage 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 Council-accredited law schools on the bar exam in those same jurisdictions.

• **Jurisdictional Information.** This section breaks down first-time bar pass rates by jurisdiction and compares a law school's graduates' pass rate to the average pass rate of all takers from Council-accredited law schools.

Two-Year Ultimate Bar Admission Section

This section provides information on how many of a law school's graduates have been admitted to the bar and where the law school stands in relation to Standard 316, which states: At least 75 percent of a law school's graduates in a calendar year who sat for a bar examination must have passed a bar examination administered within two years of their date of graduation.

Information Relevant to Both Sections

• **Alternative Pathways to Licensure.** There are currently three types of alternative pathways that allow graduates to pursue licensure without passing a bar examination:

1) graduates who have been admitted or have applications pending to be admitted through diploma privilege;

2) graduates in certain honors programs whom, by nature of their coursework and other enhanced expectations, are permitted to waive sitting for a bar exam and gain licensure;

3) graduates in jurisdictions with apprenticeship programs that provide temporary authorization to practice law while awaiting full authorization at the successful completion of the program.

Notes: Schools report the number of graduates who have been admitted or have applications pending to be admitted via alternative pathways to licensure separately from those graduates who took a bar exam. This is done to generate two bar admission rates. One bar admission rate includes just those graduates who took a bar exam. The second bar admission rate includes graduates who took a bar exam plus those who have been admitted or have applications pending to be admitted via alternative pathways.

For first-time bar admission, graduates who enter an alternative licensure program and do not take a bar exam are entered as alternative pathways graduates and are not entered as "did not take" graduates.

In the case of graduates who fail a bar exam and then enter an alternative licensure program, law schools list them as first time takers (either before or after graduation). Their result is also added to the jurisdictional information. For two-year ultimate, graduates who participated in an alternative licensure program that led to provisional bar admission are reported in the alternative pathways category if the graduates did not take and fail a bar exam.

Graduates who failed a bar exam and subsequently started an alternative licensure program are placed in the alternative pathway category only if they have received full licensure by the end of the two-year ultimate periods. These graduates are also removed from a law school's number of takers in two-year ultimate reporting.

Starting with the 2025 Bar Admission 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 and 2022 graduates in the Two-Year Ultimate Bar Admission table, but does not impact the Total First-Time Bar Admission Rate nor Ultimate Bar Admission Rate Total Percentage.