

What UBE Bar Courses Should I Take?¹

How many bar courses should I take? It is important to take enough Bar Courses so that the Bar Review course you take is truly a Bar REVIEW and not a Bar NEW!

Generally, upper-class students should take at least two bar courses each semester. Full-time students in Mandatory Academic Counseling (*i.e.*, students with a cumulative GPA below 2.7) *must* take at least two (and preferably three bar courses). The reason for this is that research has demonstrated that SMU Law graduates with a GPA below 2.5 are most at risk for not passing the bar on the first attempt. Those who passed on their first attempt took an average of more than 8 upper-class bar courses, while those who failed on their first attempt took only an average of 5.

Thus, it is the recommendation of the law school faculty that every student who is “at risk” (*i.e.*, with a law school GPA below 2.7) or who is close to being “at risk” take an absolute minimum of 8 upper-class primary bar courses. It is also recommended that the courses selected cover as many different bar exam subject areas as possible.

Which bar classes should I take? We recommend that students take a variety of bar courses. The following upper-class courses cover significant subject matter tested on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE), the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), or the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE).

Course	Bar Relevance
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE	Tested on MEE
EVIDENCE	Tested on MBE & MEE
CONFLICT OF LAWS	Tested on MEE
CONSTITUTIONAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE	Tested on MBE & MEE
FAMILY LAW	Tested on MEE
FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, AND RELIGION	Tested on MBE & MEE
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	Tested on MPRE
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS	Tested on MBE & MEE
SECURED TRANSACTIONS	Tested on MEE
REMEDIES	Tested on MEE
TRUSTS AND ESTATES	Tested on MEE

¹ While this document focuses substantially on the Uniform Bar Exam, most of the information is applicable to any bar exam. A student not planning to take the bar in a state where the UBE is offered should investigate the coverage of the bar exam he or she is planning to take prior to registering for courses for his or her second year of law school.

Are there any bar exam preparation classes or opportunities offered? SMU

Dedman Law offers a course on bar exam preparation called Advanced Legal Reasoning. This is not to be taken in lieu of taking a commercial bar preparation class. Rather, it is an opportunity to refresh your knowledge of some of the subjects tested on the Uniform Bar Exam and to gain experience in the testing format.