American University Washington College of Law - 2024

Phone: (202) 274-4000

Website: https://www.wcl.american.edu/



Legal Education and

Admissions to the Bar

First-Time Bar Passage

Calendar year of graduation	in the calendar year	Graduates who took the bar exam before graduation	who took bar exam after graduation	not	with	First time takers from prior grad years	Total first- time takers	Total who passed the bar	Law school bar passage rate*	ABA weighted average bar pass rate**	Difference in bar pass rate***	Graduates admitted via alternative pathways to licensure	Total First- Time Bar Passage Rate: first time takers and alternative pathways to licensure
2023	321	0	289	30	2	37	326	244	74.85%	79.94%	-5.09%	0	74.85%
2022	315	-	-	49	0	49	315	230	73.02%	78.02%	-5.00%	0	73.02%
2021	407	-	-	36	14	70	427	341	79.86%	78.56%	1.30%	0	79.86%

^{*}For 2022 and 2021, 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.

Details 2023:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	186	142	76.34%	83.41%	-7.07%
MARYLAND	48	34	70.83%	68.98%	1.85%
NEW YORK	33	25	75.76%	82.96%	-7.20%
VIRGINIA	14	8	57.14%	76.43%	-19.29%
21 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	45	35	77.78%	76.09%	1.69%

Details 2022:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
CALIFORNIA	15	6	40.00%	72.15%	-32.15%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	167	126	75.45%	79.62%	-4.17%
MARYLAND	51	35	68.63%	75.95%	-7.32%
NEW YORK	31	25	80.65%	82.69%	-2.04%
VIRGINIA	12	7	58.33%	78.06%	-19.73%
18 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	39	31	79.49%	70.80%	8.69%

Details 2021:

Jurisdiction	Takers	Passers	Pass %	State Pass % for ABA approved law schools	Difference
MARYLAND	78	62	79.49%	74.73%	4.76%
NEW YORK	41	35	85.37%	86.19%	-0.82%
VIRGINIA	39	29	74.36%	78.07%	-3.71%
CALIFORNIA	19	6	31.58%	76.99%	-45.41%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	170	147	86.47%	80.57%	5.90%
FLORIDA	14	12	85.71%	69.61%	16.10%
ILLINOIS	10	8	80.00%	76.97%	3.03%
21 REMAINING JURISDICTIONS	56	42	75.00%	73.95%	1.05%

^{**}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.

Two-Year Ultimate Bar Passage

Calendar year of graduation	Total graduates in calendar year	# of grads with no info	# who did not take a bar bar			Graduates who have been admitted via an alternative pathway to licensure	Ultimate Bar Passage Rate Total % (incl. alternative pathways)	
				#	#	%		
				of takers	who passed	who passed		
2021	408	3	21	384	356	92.71%	0	92.71%
2020	379	0	34	345	309	89.57%	0	89.57%
2019	400	20	2	378	342	90.48%	0	90.48%