Nevada Comprehensive Licensing Exam

Three-part assessment:

- **Foundational Law Exam**, multiple choice, taken during law school (like MPRE)

- **Lawyering Performance Exam,** performance tests after graduation (June & Jan.)

- 40-60 hours of **supervised practice** (in law school or after, instead of bar prep).

Proposed Timeline to Nevada Bar Admission

START LAW SCHOOL

Open online application with Bar Admissions Department	any time after starting law school
Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)	offered 3 times per year; eligible to take during law school
Foundational Law Exam (FLE)	offered 4 times a year; eligible to take after 42 credits (about 3 semesters)
Supervised Practice Requirement	complete during or after law school; eligible for student lawyer certification after 45 credits
Character & Fitness Review	timing under Admissions Department policy & Supreme Court rules

LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION

Lawyering Performance Exam (LPE)	take any time after graduation; offered June & January
ADMITTED TO BAR	when each component completed successfully

Nevada Foundational Law Exam (FLE)

100 multiple-choice questions

MBE subjects (Civ Pro, Contracts, Crim & Crim Pro, Con Law, Evidence, Property, & Torts)

Public blueprint of 20 concepts to be tested for each subject

Offered in testing centers 4 times a year

Can be taken during law school (after 3 semesters) or after graduation

Nevada Lawyering Performance Exam (LPE)

- Three 2-hour performance tests
- One day, post-graduation
- Twice a year, January & June
- Authentic & valid
- Rubrics & calibration for reliability

Nevada Supervised Practice Requirement: 2 parts

1) Client Work

- 40-60 hours
- Certified under student practice rule
- Law school clinics, externships, or pro bono work with supervising lawyers
- Timed to be done instead of bar prep if not done in law school

2) Several self-directed learning explorations

- Relating to the practice of law in Nevada
- From Nevada's currently required mentoring program

Better Public Protection

- Assesses foundational knowledge <u>and</u> actual lawyering skills
- Based on best contemporary research on attorney competence, assessment, and cognition
- Psychometrically sound—i.e., valid, reliable, fair, educationally effective, and feasible.
- Requires live client & case management experience instead of attempting to assess those in a written test

Benefits of Staged Licensing

- Staged licensing, from foundational to advanced, is consistent with cognitive science and other professions
- Foundational Law Exam (FLE) multiple-choice test requires appropriate but not excessive memorization
- Lawyering Performance Exam (LPE) requires more advanced writing, analysis, and strategic competence

Better Timing

- Early stand-alone multiple-choice exam (FLE) provides crucial feedback to students during law school, when professors can help students improve
- Early multiple-choice exam frees up time after graduation for supervised practice
- Months of post-graduation cramming not necessary
- Less time to licensure

Fairness & Feasibility

- Better alignment of licensing with law school and legal practice
- Reduced barriers unrelated to competence to practice law (excessive memorization, costs, inflexible schedules)
- Keep applicant and administrative costs the same