

Office of Academic Achievement

The Bar Zone

Maintaining Your Sanity—You Know More Than You Think

Special points of interest:

- Some students say they are nervous and anxious about the bar.
- You know more than you think.
- If you know at least 75% of each topic, that's enough.
- The more you know, the more confidence, no room for insanity.

Last week many 3L students were asked: “What is your current sentiment regarding the July 2019 bar exam?” Answers arranged from; nervous, OMG, lit, stressed, excited, anxious, pressured, etc. This may be because the horror stories and rumors are everywhere and the unknown may be frightening.

Relax, take a deep breath. You can do this. You have been preparing for the bar exam since the first day of orientation. That is what your law school education was all about; developing the skills and knowledge. You know more than you think because the bottom line of your legal education was learning law and how to apply that law to a new set of facts—the very skills the bar exam is assessing.

For many students the question is how can the bar examiners expect me to learn and memorize all of the material? They don't. You do not have to memorize 100% of the material. Having a solid handle on 75% of the material will result in a passing score. That means 75% of *each topic*. If you took a class on that topic, you will have been exposed to the subject matter. Additionally you already have a head-start. In your long-term memory, you already know simple legal concepts.

Knowledge is empowering and reassuring. The more you know about what you already know, the more

confidence you have because you are facing a known entity rather than an unknown one. Know that you been and will be thoroughly equipped with knowledge for the bar.

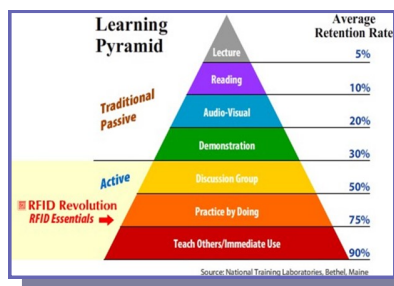


Inside this issue:

House in Order	2
Bar Resources	2
Trust the Process	2
Bar Components	3
Frequently Asked Questions	3
No Silver Bullet	3
Time Management	4

Passive vs. Active Learning

Adults spend most of their time at the top of the pyramid with passive learning. Passive learning includes; listening to lectures



which equals 5% of the retention rate. The retention rates for reading an outline alone is 10% of retention. While viewing audio-visual mediums equal 20% of retention. Whereas watching demonstrations equal 30% of the retention rate.

But look where the retention rate starts to increase. The highest collaboration starts with discussion groups which equals 50% of the retention rate. The next highest

retention rate is through practice by doing which equals 75%. But the highest retention rate, 90%, is achieved by teaching others and/or immediate use.

What does this mean for bar study? This means that you must become an active learner. Thus, we encourage you to come visit the Office of Academic Achievement for customized coaching in becoming an active learner.

Get Your House In Order



Take care of those nagging chores you ignored all school year.

Every year students ask whether they should start studying for the bar early. Does it hurt, or does it help? My response is the same every year. “What are the things that you have been ignoring at home while studying for the exam? Is there something that gives you anxiety every time you walk by it? Are there un-open envelopes, uncut grass, winter clothes that need to be put away?”

While many students perform well only working the schedule

from their commercial courses, many find that the stress of having unfinished household chores is an additional stressor.

Our most basic needs must be met before we can seek the next level. Along with completing overdue home task, our body needs food, water, sleep, and warmth. Only after those needs are met are we able to focus on the bar. One way to maintain your stress is to fulfill these needs first. So, focus on the basic needs like; shelter, the

ability to pay your utilities, and nourishing food to eat. If you can, plan your finances so that you are not relying on working during this time. Working is another level of anxiety because you are aware that your study time is divided.

After your physical needs are met, be sure to have a regular date night with your significant other or spend time with your children every day.

And Then All The Resources Came Crashing Down



“Trust is a dicey subject, everyone wants to be trusted but only few people are willing to put in the work to show themselves trustworthy.”

Studying for the bar can be overwhelming. To help, you are given tons of books, advice, outlines, problems, etc., that can often times just exacerbate anxiety instead of alleviating it. The amount of information given can make the process seem even more overwhelming, so here are a few things to keep in mind:

(1) **Not everyone learns the same way.** Determine how you learn best. Just because

it works for a friend, does not guarantee it will work for you. Use the resources that will help you review best. This may mean that you don’t use everything, and that’s okay.

(2) **Don’t wait till last the minute!** It will be your responsibility to keep up with earlier subjects and continue reviewing. Don’t wait till two weeks before the bar to review that first subject again.

(3) **Utilize Feedback.** There are many different ways for you to get feedback while studying for the bar. Use all available avenues of feedback to help ensure you don’t bring harmful habits to the exam.

Trust The Process

You have heard many times that bar review is not a sprint, but a marathon. It will be long, and it will be exhausting. However, it can be done; you just have to trust the process.

There has been extensive research into the best ways to

study for the bar exam, and the commercial bar review courses have implemented these findings. There is a reason you are asked to do more lectures, more notes, more MBE questions, more MPTs, and more essay questions. Follow the process; trust the process. Science was

used to put it into place, so just follow the programs and allow them to work.

If you find that you are struggling, or concerned, please feel free to reach out to Office of Academic Achievement for support.



The Bar Exam Components and Their Purpose

Each component of the bar exam is designed to look different in form. However, the goal of each component is testing, from the skills standpoint, you on two major things; rule memory or identification and rule/fact analysis.

The MPT is designed to test your ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. It is designed to evaluate the fundamental skills of *identifying rules and making application* regardless of the area of law and testing for-

mat in which the skills are applied.

The purpose of the Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam Essay is to identify legal issues, test your ability to *demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles*, and present a reasoned analysis

The purpose of the MBE is to assess the extent to which you can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns. The primary distinction between the Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam Essay and the Multistate Bar Examina-

tion (MBE) is that the Jurisdiction-Drafted Exam Essay requires you to demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Notice how each component is looking for the basic IRAC concept. What this means to you is that you should never stray away from these fundamental skills.



During the test, people look up for inspiration, down for desperation, and left and right for information.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Bar

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE TO PASS THE BAR EXAMINATION?

A score of 270 is required to pass the Georgia Bar examination. A score of 115 on the MBE is required in order to have your MPT questions and essays graded.

WHERE IS THE BAR EXAMINATION HELD?

The Georgia Bar Examination is held at the Georgia International

Convention Center (GICC) near Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ADA ACCOMMODATIONS?

You can find information regarding ADA accommodations as well as the application forms in the ADA Testing Accommodation section under the Bar Examination tab on our home page.

WHEN IS THE PASS LIST POSTED?

The pass list is posted on the 4th Friday of May for the February Bar examination and the 4th Friday of October for the July Bar examination.

For more specific questions about the bar exam come visit the Office of Academic Achievement. Our doors are always open.

“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside of you that is greater than any obstacle.”

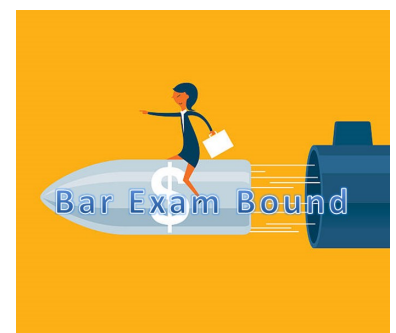
There Is No Silver Bullet For Passing The Bar

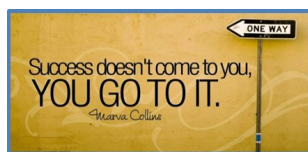
Of all the health myths in the world, there is the idea that there is a *silver bullet* for weight loss. We now use the term 'silver bullet' to refer to something that acts as a magical weapon and provides an immediate solution to a problem like a magic wand. For many bar takers, many myths are out there professing as being the only way to pass the

bar. Some say; “work through 2,000 MBE questions”; “One commercial bar course is better than another”; “Don’t waste your time reading the commercial outlines, only use flashcards”, etc.

The one and only for sure solution for passing the bar is the forced undertaking of a regimented study schedule; time

dedication with intended goals for reviewing, recall, and practice. This includes setting goals with the bar schedule, taking advantage of practice sessions and feedback, attending workshops, and working within your own capabilities with true commitment.





Visit the offices of the Academic Professionals

Room 719 - Sharon Phillips-Biondini

Room 721 - Victoria Duke

Room 722 - Sarah Murphy

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Congratulations on graduation! You are in an **elite** group of Americans who have earned a doctorate. Your JD is something you should be proud of and the last three years is something to be proud of. But there is still one final, arduous hurdle--the bar exam! (I hear the collective sigh). It's difficult to go from celebrating your graduation to long studious days, but the Office of Academic Achievement (OAA) is here to help you navigate this bar review cycle and these next two months so that you can be "one and done!" Don't hesitate to reach out to your bar advisor.*

Sarah D. Murphy

Assistant Dean, Office of Academic Achievement

Space Practice Learning & Time Management

Since the beginning of law school, the bar exam has been the elephant in the room—always there, never moving. Now it's time to address it. But how do we do that? Just like the old riddle that asks, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer is, "One bite at a time." One day, one page, one topic at a time. Step by step you will study what you need to know and practice the skills you need to pass the exam. While you need to know what the elephant looks like, you conquer the task and skills by focusing only on what you need to be doing that day, and then what needs to be done the next day, and the day after that, and the day after that.

Spaced practice learning is the exact opposite of cramming. When you space your learning, you take that same amount of study time, and spread it out across a much longer period of time. Doing it this way, you can focus on learning and reviewing the materials, methods of information for recall, and still have ample opportunity to practice the concepts. But spacing your learning requires advance planning. The time management chart is an example of pre-planning for a week of bar study. Attached you will see a sample of a weekly Time Management Chart. This is only a sample created as if the student has no other obstacles in life, but the bar. However, no matter what previous commitments you may have

and no matter which commercial bar program you are enrolled in, the segments remain the same. Each day should include time for "review", "recall", and "practice".

Review is the time where you would read your commercial outlines, attend lectures, and/or listen to videos of substantive law.

Recall is the time for active learning. Here you can participate in several learning mechanisms. Referencing back to the chart on page 1, verbal discussions allow you the opportunity to recite the legal theory. This can be done with a study partner or to the television. But remember, use your voice. You can practice re-writing a section of the outline from memory, creating flash cards, designing Mnemonics for rule elements, or creating concept maps for sections of the outline that you are having difficulty with. Another method of active learning is teaching through elaborate rehearsal. Elaborative rehearsal requires you to verbally elaborate on, or attach special meaning to new rules. The focus of elaborative rehearsal is the actual meaning of the rule theory and not just the definition in a vacuum. You can also do this task with a study partner or verbally teach the family dog. Fiddo won't mind.

Practice is the time spent with retrieving the

rules and applying them to factual situations. This is either working with MBE questions, outlining for essays, writing the perfect IRAC, and also rehearsing timing for the MPT. Your commercial bar course and the Office of Academic Achievement will have more than enough opportunities for you to practice with each component of the bar.

In short, what space practice learning and these active learning opportunities are doing for you is allowing volumes of information to be encoded into your long-term memory. So after two months of study, the information you learned would be encoded, retrieved, and practiced more than once.

Since space practice learning is unique, we encourage all students to come visit the Office of Academic Achievement for customized time management calendar specific to your life.



MODEL BAR EXAM WEEKLY STUDY SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:00							
7:00							
8:00						Review Outlines for weeks classes	
8:30							
9:00							
9:30	Review	Review	Review	Review	Review		Recall
10:00	Bar Prep Class	Bar Prep Class	Bar Prep Class	Bar Prep Class	Bar Prep Class	Dress for Class & Drive time	Examine outline
11:00	9:30-1:30 Con Law	9:30-1:30	9:30-1:30	9:30-1:30	9:30-1:30		Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc
12:00						Law School Workshop	
1:00							
1:30							
2:00							
2:30	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall		
3:00	Examine outline	Examine outline	Examine outline	Examine outline	Examine outline		
4:00	Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	Recall	Practice
4:30						Examine outlines, Create Flash cards, concept map, elaborate rehearsal, reorganize outline by chunking, etc	MBE Questions Essay Questions
5:00							
5:30	Practice	Practice	Practice	Practice	Practice		
6:00	MBE Questions	MBE Questions	MBE Questions	MBE Questions	MBE Questions	Practice	
7:00	Essay Questions	Essay Questions	Essay Questions	Essay Questions	Essay Questions	MBE Questions Essay Questions	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class
8:00	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class	Read Commercial Outline for upcoming class		
9:00							
10:00							
11:00							