

**DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE
FOR APPLICANTS FOR UBE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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Diploma Privilege Qualifications

- 1. What is diploma privilege?** Diploma privilege for applicants who are registered to take the July or September 2020 Washington UBE, as it is being used here, means admission to the practice of law as a lawyer in Washington state, without having to take the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). Applicants choosing the diploma privilege option still have to comply with all other preadmission and licensing requirements. The preadmission and licensing requirements are the same as if you sat for the Washington UBE and received a passing score.
- 2. If I choose diploma privilege, will I have a license to practice law in Washington?** This is a full license, and it is not a temporary license to practice law; however, there are annual and ethical requirements for maintaining your license to practice with which you will have to comply in order to maintain your license. You will not have to sit for the UBE in Washington at a later date.
- 5. I applied for the Washington summer 2020 UBE and then withdrew my application. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who were registered to take the Washington summer exam at the time of the Court's order qualify for diploma privilege.
- 6. I applied for the Washington summer 2020 UBE and then transferred my application to 2021. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who were registered to take the Washington summer exam at the time of the Court's order qualify for diploma privilege.
- 7. I did not apply for the Washington summer 2020 UBE because of concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who were registered to take the Washington summer exam at the time of the Court's order qualify for diploma privilege.
- 8. I have an LLM from an ABA accredited law school, but not a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who are currently registered for the July or September 2020 Washington UBE and who received a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school qualify.
- 9. I have a J.D. from a law school that is not accredited by the ABA. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who are currently registered for the July or September 2020 Washington UBE and who received a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school qualify.
- 10. I completed the APR 6 law clerk program. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** No, only applicants who received a J.D. from an ABA accredited law school qualify.
- 11. I am registered for the Washington summer 2020 UBE and have a J.D. from an ABA law school but I previously failed the bar exam. Do I qualify for diploma privilege?** Yes, even if you previously failed the bar exam in Washington, you may exercise diploma privilege.
- 12. Can I sit for the Washington summer 2020 UBE and exercise diploma privilege?** No, you cannot do both. You must choose either diploma privilege or the UBE.
- 13. If I take the Washington summer 2020 UBE and fail, can I exercise diploma privilege?** No, you do not qualify for diploma privilege if you sit for any portion of the Washington UBE.



Pre-Admission Requirements

14. If I exercise diploma privilege and my application is currently incomplete or if I have been requested by Admissions staff to provide additional information for my application, what is the deadline for me to submit the remaining information to complete my application? You must complete all application requirements at least 18 days prior to the date of the exam that you were registered for before choosing diploma privilege. If you do not complete any remaining application requirements by the deadline then your application will be disqualified just as it would were you taking the exam.

15. If I exercise diploma privilege, do I need to complete other preadmission and licensing requirements? Yes, you must complete all preadmission and licensing requirements prior to your admission to practice law. You must wait until your application has been approved before you can start the preadmission and licensing requirements. Please continue to monitor your online application and email for updates on how your application is progressing and what your next steps are.

16. If I exercise diploma privilege and my application is approved, what is the deadline for me to complete the preadmission requirements? You must complete all preadmission and licensing requirements no more than 40 months after the date of the exam that you were registered for before choosing diploma privilege.

17. If I exercise diploma privilege, do I need to take and pass the MPRE? Yes, an MPRE score of at least 85 is required.

18. If I exercise diploma privilege, do I need to take and pass the Washington Law Component (WLC)? Yes, a WLC score of at least 80% is required.

19. If I exercise diploma privilege, when will I be able to complete the preadmission requirements? Monitor your online application and email for notifications about when additional steps can be completed. You must wait until your application has been approved before you can start the preadmission and licensing requirements.

Admission in Other U.S. Jurisdictions

20. If I exercise diploma privilege, will I have a UBE score to transfer to another jurisdiction? No. You must take the UBE to get a UBE score.

21. If I exercise diploma privilege, will it affect my ability to be admitted by motion (i.e., without an exam) in another jurisdiction. Maybe. Some states will not permit admission by motion for lawyers who were originally admitted by diploma privilege. See Chart 13 of the NCBE [Bar Admission Guide](#).



Miscellaneous

22. Will I get some sort of refund of my application fees if I choose diploma privilege? No, no refund is available.

23. What if I later want to change my decision to exercise diploma privilege? You must contact the admissions team as soon as possible. You will only be able to sit for that exam if your application is completed and approved by 18 days before the exam, and if we still have seats available consistent with our site availability and physical distancing requirements.

24. What if I later want to change my decision to sit for the Washington summer bar exam and instead want to exercise diploma privilege? At any time prior to the date of the exam for which you are registered, you may make your change on the online admissions portal and choose to exercise diploma privilege instead of taking the exam.

25. Will I have to indicate on my resume that I am licensed to practice because of diploma privilege? We can't answer that question for you, but there is no requirement under the Admission and Practice Rules or the Court's order for you to indicate your diploma privilege on your resume. It will not be publicly posted in the online Legal Directory.

26. Do I have to tell employers that I was licensed in Washington by diploma privilege? We can't answer that question for you; it is not a requirement of receiving diploma privilege, so it is an issue between you and your employer or potential employer. Obviously, you should not misrepresent how you were admitted if it is ever relevant.

