



Committee on Admissions
District of Columbia Court of Appeals
430 E St. NW, Room 123
Washington, D.C. 20001

An analysis of data from recent prior exams demonstrates that stakeholders have varying interpretations of D.C. App. R. 46(c)(4) and (d). Similarly, no uniform standard is applied by ABA approved law schools for the admission of students whose first law degree was earned at a non-ABA approved school. This notice is intended to clarify what academic credentials the Committee on Admissions (COA) requires for admission by examination or transferred UBE score pursuant to D.C. App. R. 46(c)(4) and (d). The COA will apply an exception, described in the FAQs, for applicants who apply to sit for the July 2022 and/or February 2023 examination.

The COA interprets the term “graduated from a law school” in DC App. Rule 46(c)(4) to mean that the student has either (1) obtained a law degree from an institution and completed law classes for which the total credit hours awarded by the institution meets the minimum number of credit hours (currently 83) required for graduation from an ABA-approved school;¹ or (2) completed a legal education that meets the educational requirements for admission to practice law in the foreign (i.e., non-District of Columbia) jurisdiction in which the education was obtained.

The fact that a non-ABA approved school has awarded the student a degree called a “Bachelor of Law(s)” or “Master of Law(s)” or “Law and Public Administration” or “L.L.B.” or “J.D.” degree or a degree with a similar name does not necessarily mean that the student “graduated from a law school” for purposes of Rule 46(c)(4).

In addition to meeting the 26-credit-hour requirement set out in Rule 46(c)(4) and (d), Bar Exam and UBE score transfer applicants who are not J.D. graduates of ABA-approved law schools must:

- A. Demonstrate a completion of at least 83 credit hours in law courses, which may be earned through a combination of law classes requiring attendance (whether in-person or remote), experiential learning, co-curricular activities, and out-of-class student work.² Applicants must demonstrate that they have satisfied this requirement by submitting one of the following:
 1. An official transcript(s) in English, utilizing (and, if necessary, converted to) the U.S. grading system; or
 2. A course-by-course evaluation report obtained from a credential evaluation service approved by the COA

OR

¹The COA deems the 83 credit hour requirement to be a reasonable standard for applicants to demonstrate a significant foundational legal education.

² An evaluation of the legal education must include the following: date of completion, name, date of birth, country of education, name of institution, title of credential, date of credential award, dates of attendance, level or type of program, language of instruction, U.S. equivalency of the credential, course by course listing of legal education courses with the equivalent U.S. grade and equivalent U.S. semester credits.

- B. Obtain from a credential evaluation service, approved by the COA, a certification that the applicant's legal education meets the educational requirements for admission to practice law in the foreign (i.e., non-District of Columbia) jurisdiction in which it was obtained.³

³ Information provided by a credential evaluation agency is considered advisory; the Committee reserves the right to make the final decision with regard to law study equivalency and how much credit the applicant will receive toward qualifying to take the District of Columbia bar examination.