

Licensure Fees in the COA

Dear Students,

The Berkeley Law Financial Aid Office wants to share an exciting change for the 2023-24 academic year. The FAFSA Simplification Act allows schools to add the costs of obtaining a license, certification, or first professional credential to the Cost of Attendance (COA), which means that we can add the bar exam fees in the COA for all students. This is added to [our website](#) as well.

The fees associated with the California Bar Exam will now be included in your COA without completing the Bar Exam Fee Addendum form for students that are completing the California Bar Exam. If you are taking a bar exam at another state, you will continue to use the Bar Exam Fee Addendum form to request different amounts to be reflected in your COA.

There are four steps you must take to be eligible for the California Bar. Three are through the California Bar: Registering for the Bar, Completing the Moral Character Application, and Applying for the Bar. The fourth is through the National Conference of Bar Examiners: Register for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE).

1. The Bar strongly suggests students to **register for the State Bar of California admission** in their 1L year and the registration fee this year is \$119. This will be included in the 1L COA starting 2023-24 academic year.
2. Berkeley Law recommends our 3L students submit the **Moral Character Application** over the winter break of their 3L year since it typically takes 6 to 8 months for the Bar to process the applications. This costs \$551. Students will do the **live scan fingerprint** for this application, which will cost another \$82. These fees will be included in the 3L COA.
3. Third-year students will file a **Bar Exam Application**, and this application opens on March 1st every year. The application fee is \$677. There will be a **laptop computer fee** of \$153 in addition to the application fee, and these will be included in the 3L COA as well.
4. Lastly, California requires passage of the **Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)** before students can be sworn into the bar. The MPRE is administered three times a year: March, August, and November. Students are eligible to take the exam during their second or third year. This is for \$150. We will include this in the 3L COA, but if you are to take this exam in your 2L year, please reach out to our office.

Below is the summary of the fees listed above:

Bar Registration	\$119	1L
Determination of Moral Character application	\$551	3L
Live Scan Fingerprint	\$82	3L
Application Fee	\$677	3L
Laptop Computer Fee	\$153	3L
Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) fee	\$150	3L
TOTAL	\$1,732	

Key takeaways for this change:

- If you are taking California Bar Exam, you do not need to complete the Bar Exam Fee Addendum form to get the fees added to your COA. Yay!
- **Do not use this bar exam fees in your budget for other purposes. You won't be able to request the Cost of Attendance Adjustment Form to ask for your bar exam fees to be added to your COA again.**
- **You will see a slight increase in your COA, but you should not feel obligated to borrow the maximum amount of loans that are offered to you. We strongly recommend you borrowing only what you need.**
- If you are taking a bar exam at another state and the costs associated with the bar exam is more expensive than the fees added in your budget, you can fill out the Bar Exam Fee Addendum form to increase your COA accordingly.

We are very excited to share this news with you. If you would like to meet with us and talk about your budget, please [schedule an appointment](#) or email us your questions at financial-aid-law@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,
Berkeley Law Financial Aid Office