

Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar

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To: Unsuccessful February 2018 Illinois Bar Examinees
From: Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar
Date: April 2018
Re: Understanding Your Examination Score

The minimum passing score on the 2-day Illinois Bar Examination is a Combined Scaled Score (CSS) of 266 out of a possible 400 points.

Understanding Your Score

Combined Scaled Score (CSS). The CSS is equal to the sum of your MBE scaled score and your written scaled score. The CSS is always a whole number. In computing the CSS, the sum (not the individual components) of the MBE and written examination scaled scores is rounded up.

Integrated Score. Illinois employs a compensatory or integrated scoring system, which means that you may achieve the minimum passing score of 266 by any combination of MBE and written examination scores and need not have obtained a minimum score on either part of the exam. You may not pass the exam in parts – a score of 133 or above on one part of the exam does not mean that you passed that part of the exam and need not retest on it.

Written Examination – IEE, MEE, MPT. The 3 IEE and 6 MEE essay answers are weighted equally; the MPT answer is weighted 2.25 times that of an individual essay. Each essay and MPT answer receives a raw score on a 0 to 6 point scale. The answers are scored on a relative basis with there being no passing or failing score. Thus, your raw score for a particular answer reflects your performance relative to that of the other examinees on that particular question. The sum of your 10 raw scores becomes your ‘written raw score.’ To compare and interpret the results of the written exam, the written raw scores are scaled to the MBE, which is an equated test (*see below*) and statistically reliable. Accordingly, your written raw score has been converted to a ‘written scaled score’ that has a maximum of 200. As a result of scaling to an equated test, the written exam scores have been adjusted for differences in exam difficulty, and a given written scaled score indicates about the same level of proficiency regardless of the exam administration at which it was earned.

MBE. Your MBE has been scored by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). Your MBE score is a *scaled score* with a maximum of 200. The number of questions you answered correctly is the *raw score*. The MBE raw scores of all test-takers across the jurisdictions, through a statistical process called scaling, are transformed onto a different score scale with the raw scores converted to scaled scores. This different score scale is derived from yet another statistical process called equating, which is used to adjust for differences in difficulty across various MBE test forms. As a result of these statistical processes, a given MBE scaled score indicates about the same level of proficiency regardless of the examination on which it was earned.

Regrading of Written Examination. Any request for regrading of essay and MPT answers will be denied. Please be assured that the Board of Admissions has already followed regrading procedures recommended by psychometricians (statisticians who specialize in testing procedures) to ensure the accuracy of your score. *An examinee whose initial CSS was in the 262 to 265 range automatically has had his/her IEE, MEE and MPT answers reread and rescored by a different grader.* That examinee’s CSS was then recalculated to reflect the average of the two sets of scores. The Board does not authorize regrading in cases where the initial score is below 262 as our psychometric data shows that it is virtually impossible for scores of 261 or lower to be raised to 266 after regrading.

Finality of Bar Examination Results. Bar examination results are final and non-appealable. The Board of Admissions does not entertain requests for review, regrading or other relief.