



Alternate Pathway to Licensure Examination Overview

The Alternate Pathway to Licensure (APL) Examination is required of all candidates pursuing the APL. Examinees receive additional information about exam day procedures, permitted and prohibited items, and schedules in the month prior to the exam date.

The APL Exam Requires the Examinee to Demonstrate:

- An understanding of legal processes and sources of law;
 - The ability to interpret legal materials;
 - The ability to identify legal issues; and
 - The ability to communicate as a lawyer.
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APL Exam Format:

The Exam is administered in August and in March and is a written performance test. It is a closed-universe exercise requiring the examinee to perform a common lawyering task, such as drafting a letter to a client, a persuasive memorandum, a contract, or court documents. Examinees will be required to read and understand the legal material provided, apply it to a new fact scenario, and present their analysis or argument in writing to demonstrate effective communication skills.

The Exam materials consist of a Memorandum outlining the writing task, a Library with all necessary legal materials, and a Case File with documents needed to complete the writing task. No other materials are permitted. Exam materials are provided in hard copy to examinees on the day of the exam. Examinees will input their response onto a computer provided by the Utah State Bar or by the examinee.

The exam is not speeded and the time allotted is intended to be adequate for examinees to complete the required written exercise.

Preparing for the APL Exam:

Examinees will have all materials and law necessary to complete the task, so there is no memorization requirement. Because of the nature of the exam, a comprehensive outline or course of study is not available. However, the following are practices to engage in to prepare for the exam:

- Practice reading through legal materials including statutes, cases with headnotes, court rules, and other legal materials. Understand the relationship between different types of legal sources.
 - Ask colleagues and mentors to talk through legal issues and become familiar with identifying legal issues, analyzing facts and law, determining what is relevant and what is not, and putting together arguments.
 - Practice writing different types of legal documents from client letters to persuasive memorandums, to transactional documents, to briefs.
 - Practice accurate citation and proper grammar in all writing.
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Grading the APL Exam

The Exam responses are scored by members of the Utah State Bar who are familiar with the APL exam and who have previously scored the Bar Examination.