

## *What is the best advice you give to those studying for the bar exam?*

Your colleagues shared their best advice during the AccessLex Summer Webinar “Academic and Bar Success Day.” Now, we are delighted to share it with you!



### PRACTICE

Practice, practice and MORE practice.

Take a lot of practice tests and review your answers.

Best advice: do as many practice questions as possible. (Mostly open-book and mostly untimed.)

Prioritize question practice and debrief each answer comprehensively for weaknesses in substantive law knowledge AND exam-taking skills.

Keep a running list, organized by MBE subject, of all rules you didn't know well enough to answer a question correctly. Memorize those rules so you don't miss similar MBE questions that test the same rule. Beginning in July, begin memorizing those rules, using the spaced repetition process, while continuing to do as many practices as you can. Since the MBE subjects are also tested on the essay portion of the UBE, you'll leverage your study time most effectively with this approach to mastering content.



### TIME MANAGEMENT

Structure your day so you are productive.

Treat bar study as a job — do it daily, thoroughly, consistently, strategically, for the equivalent of a full work day, 6 days/week.

Consistency is key. One bad day does not have to mean a bad week or month.

Time management is the most important factor in your bar studies success. This means your likelihood of success is not dependent on your innate intelligence, but on factors that are completely within your control. Now get to work.

My best advice is for them to try their best to stay on schedule with their bar prep class, to take it day by day, and to make sure to get outside/get in some movement each day!

Hard to get to one, but I can get to two: (1) Time on task matters. Based on experience with past students with similar profiles, 10 hours a day of bar study (counting your lectures, etc.) in the 2 months before the bar gives you a 70% chance of first-time passing and 9 hours is like 30%. (2) Write at least 6 practice essays and 4 MPTs.



## FOCUS

Focus, practice, succeed. You WILL get through this.

Just do the darn work!

It's just an exam.

You cannot know it all. It is a marathon and not a sprint. Also, while the practice MBE questions provide immediate gratification with an answer, most need to really focus constructing well-organized answers that respond to the questions (or tasks in the case of the MPT) asked.

Commit to it seriously.

Go with your gut instinct in situations where you truly don't know an answer.



## SELF CARE

Keep stress manageable and take breaks.

I tell students that they need to build in breaks and days off when studying for the bar. Bar prep companies don't typically do this — they only build in a small number of days off and this isn't realistic or sustainable for most students and their mental health.

It's a marathon — not a sprint!

Bring your best selves to the exam.

It's not over until it's over. Your life is not over if it doesn't result in a pass. It's just the next step in your journey. I think it's so easy for people to feel defined by the bar exam and panic about what they will do if they fail. I think we need to stop projecting this fear and let them know that it happens, and it will be fine if it does.