

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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ROAD MAP FOR SUCCESS – BAR PREPARATION

Preparing for the Bar Examination is much like preparing to run a marathon. To be a success, one must begin to prepare early, manage time wisely, and develop a rigorous discipline of study. The following is a suggested plan to assist you in establishing a successful system of study to prepare for the Bar Examination.

- **Sign up for the BarBri and PMBR courses as soon as possible to lock in the price.**
- **Beginning in June of the year before the Bar Exam, start reviewing bar materials.**
 - Set aside between four and eight hours per week for this review.
 - Determine which subjects are tested on the Bar Exam that you did not take and concentrate on those.
 - Then, review the materials of the courses you have taken.
 - Do practice Multi-State Bar Exam (MBE) questions.¹
- **By March, develop a relationship with a mentor.**
 - Find someone who practices in Texas who can provide emotional support.
- **By April, plan for the unexpected.**
 - Marital/relationship – discuss potential issues with your significant other.
 - Family/child care – address any family or child care needs you may have.
 - Health – address any health issues you may have.
 - Financial – have a plan to handle the financial strains this time places on you.
- **Before graduation, visit www.ble.state.tx.us to learn about the Texas Bar Exam.**
 - The Examiners' Comments are a gold mine of information.
- **After graduation, attend all BarBri and PMBR review courses.**
 - Prepare family and friends for your absence.
 - If you have a job, you must take leave from work.
 - Establish a study schedule and hold yourself accountable to it.
 - Do practice MBE and essay questions daily.
- **During the summer of the Bar Exam, schedule personal time.**
 - Stay within the time you have allocated.
 - Schedule time for personal introspection.
 - Make time for physical exercise.
 - Create time for meditation or spiritual guidance.

¹ Please refer to the article entitled, "Taking Multiple Choice Exams" for analysis of MBE-type questions and strategies for answering those questions. This article is available in the Office of Academic Support.