

**RULE CHANGE 2021(23)**

**RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN COLORADO**

## APPENDIX TO RULE 201

[\[Repealed\]](#)

### Approval of Law Schools

#### ~~American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure~~

~~301. (a) The law school shall maintain an educational program that is designed to qualify its graduates for admission to the bar.~~

~~(b) A law school may offer an educational program designed to emphasize some aspects of the law or the legal profession and give less attention to others. If a school offers such a program, that program and its objectives shall be clearly stated in its publications, where appropriate.~~

~~(c) The educational program of the school shall be designed to prepare the students to deal with recognized problems of the present and anticipated problems of the future.~~

~~302. (a) The law school shall:~~

~~(i) Offer to all students instruction in those subjects generally regarded as the core of the law school curriculum;~~

~~(ii) Offer to all students at least one rigorous writing experience;~~

~~(iii) Offer instruction in professional skills;~~

~~(iv) Require of all candidates for the first professional degree, instruction in the duties and responsibilities of the legal profession. Such required instruction need not be limited to any pedagogical method as long as the history, goals, structure and responsibilities of the legal profession and its members, including the ABA Model Code of Professional Responsibility, are all covered. Each law school is encouraged to involve members of the bench and bar in such instruction.~~

~~(b) The law school may not offer to its students, for academic credit or as a condition to graduation, instruction that is designed as a bar examination review course.~~

~~303. (a) The educational program of the law school shall provide adequate opportunity for:~~

~~(i) Study in seminars or by directed research,~~

~~(ii) Small classes for at least some portion of the total instructional program.~~

~~(b) The law school may not allow credit for study by correspondence.~~

**304.** ~~(a) The law school shall maintain and adhere to sound standards of legal scholarship, including clearly defined standards for good standing, advancement, and graduation.~~

~~(b) The scholastic achievement of students shall be evaluated from the inception of their studies. As part of the testing of scholastic achievement, a written examination of suitable length and complexity shall be required in every course for which credit is given, except clinical work, courses involving extensive written work such as moot court, practice court, legal writing and drafting, and seminars and individual research projects.~~

~~(c) A law school shall not, either by initial admission or subsequent retention, enroll or continue a person whose inability to do satisfactory work is sufficiently manifest that the person's continuation in school would inculcate false hopes, constitute economic exploitation, or deleteriously affect the education of other students.~~

**305.** ~~(a) Subject to the qualifications and exceptions contained in this Chapter, the law school shall require, as a condition for graduation, the completion of a course of study in residence of not less than 1200 class hours, extending over a period of not less than ninety weeks for full-time students, or not less than one hundred and twenty weeks for part-time students.~~

~~(i) "In residence" means attendance at classes in the law school.~~

~~(ii) "Class hours" means time spent in regularly scheduled class sessions in the law school, including time allotted for final examinations, not exceeding ten percent of the total number of class session hours.~~

~~(iii) "Full-time student" means a student who devotes substantially all working hours to the study of law.~~

~~(b) To receive residence credit for an academic period, a full-time student must be enrolled in a schedule requiring a minimum of ten class hours a week and must receive credit for at least nine class hours and a part-time student must be enrolled in a schedule requiring a minimum of eight class hours a week and must receive credit for at least eight class hours. If a student is not enrolled in or fails to receive credit for the minimum number of hours specified in this subsection, the student may receive residence credit only in the ratio that the hours enrolled in or in which credit was received, as the case may be, bear to the~~

minimum specified.

~~(c) Regular and punctual class attendance is necessary to satisfy residence and class hours requirements.~~

~~306. If the law school has a program that permits or requires student participation in studies or activities away from the law school or in a format that does not involve attendance at regularly scheduled class sessions, the time spent in such studies or activities may be included as satisfying the residence and class hours requirements, provided the conditions of this section are satisfied.~~

~~(a) The residence and class hours credit allowed must be commensurate with the time and effort expended by and the educational benefits to the participating student.~~

~~(b) The studies or activities must be approved in advance, in accordance with the school's established procedures for curriculum approval and determination.~~

~~(c) Each such study or activity, and the participation of each student therein, must be conducted or periodically reviewed by a member of the faculty to insure that in its actual operation it is achieving its educational objectives and that the credit allowed therefor is, in fact, commensurate with the time and effort expended by, and the educational benefits to, the participating student.~~

~~(d) At least 900 hours of the total time credited towards satisfying the "in residence" and "class hours" requirements of this Chapter shall be in actual attendance in regularly scheduled class sessions in the law school conferring the degree, or, in the case of a student receiving credit for studies at another law school, at the law school at which the credit was earned.~~

~~307. [Omitted.]~~

~~308. The law school may admit with advanced standing and allow credit for studies at a law school outside the United States if the studies~~

~~(i) Either were "in residence" as provided in Section 305, or qualify for credit under Section 306, and~~

~~(ii) The content of the studies was such that credit therefor would have been allowed towards satisfaction of degree requirements at the admitting school, and~~

~~(iii) The admitting school is satisfied that the quality of the educational program at the prior school was at least equal to that required for an approved school.~~

~~Advanced standing and credit allowed for foreign study shall not exceed one third of the total required by the Standards for the first professional degree unless the foreign study related chiefly to a system of law basically followed in the jurisdiction in which the admitting school is located; and in no event shall the~~

~~maximum advanced standing and credit allowed exceed two-thirds of the total required by the Standards for the first professional degree.~~

## Rule 203.4. Applications for Admission by Colorado Bar Examination

(1) [NO CHANGE]

~~(2) Colorado bar examination applications for the February 2015 Bar Examination must be received or postmarked on or before the first day of December, 2014. After December 1, 2014, Colorado bar examination applications must be received on or before the first day of November preceding the February bar examination; or on or before the first day of April preceding the July bar examination; or at such other times as may be designated by the Supreme Court.~~

(3) By the time of the examination, Colorado bar examination applicants must have received:

(a) a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a law school approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association; or

(b) a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a state-accredited law school, provided that such applicant shall have been admitted in another jurisdiction of the United States and shall have been primarily engaged in the active practice of law, as defined by C.R.C.P. 203.2, for three of the five years immediately preceding application for bar examination admission in Colorado; ~~or,~~

~~(c) a first professional law degree from a law school in a common law, English-speaking nation other than the United States provided that such applicant shall:~~

~~i) have been admitted to the bar of the nation where the applicant received the first professional law degree or in another foreign or United States jurisdiction;~~

~~ii) establish that the applicant is currently a member in good standing in all jurisdictions where admitted; and~~

~~iii) have been primarily engaged in the active practice of law, as defined by C.R.C.P. 203.2, for three of the five years immediately preceding application for admission to the practice of law in Colorado.~~

(4) An applicant who receives an LL.B., J.D., or equivalent degree from a school of higher education in a nation other than the United States can be exempt from the requirements of section (3) in this rule provided that such applicant meets all of the requirements of at least one of the following three eligibility categories:

(a) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is based on the principles of English common law and substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited or state-accredited U.S. law school;

(ii) is authorized to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction or another U.S. jurisdiction and is in good standing in all jurisdictions where admitted or authorized to practice; and

(iii) has been actively and substantially engaged in the lawful practice of law for at least three of the last five years as defined by C.R.C.P. 203.2 immediately preceding the applicant's most recent application; or

(b) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is based on the principles of English common law and substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; and

(ii) has completed an LL.M. degree that meets the curricular requirements of section (6) of this rule at an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; or

(c) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is not based on the principles of English common law, but is substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; and

(ii) is authorized to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction or in another U.S. jurisdiction and is in good standing in all jurisdictions where admitted or authorized to practice; and

(iii) has completed an LLM degree that meets the curricular requirements of section (6) of this rule at an ABA-accredited U.S. law school.

(5) A J.D. degree or an equivalent professional law degree completed at a foreign law school that is earned primarily through online courses or other distance-learning programs that do not meet the distance learning requirements of the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools does not satisfy the requirements of this rule.

(6) An LLM degree satisfies eligibility requirements of this rule specific to LLM degrees when the course of study for which the degree is awarded meets each of the following requirements:

(a) the program must consist of minimum of 24 semester hours of credit—or the equivalent, if the law school is on an academic schedule other than a conventional semester system—which must consist of courses in substantive and procedural law or professional skills. Courses completed online or by other distance-learning programs that do not meet the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools will not count toward the required minimum 24 semester hours of credit required by this rule;

(b) the program must require at least 700 minutes of instruction time, exclusive of examination time, for the granting of one semester of credit;

(c) the program must include a period of instruction consisting of no fewer than two semesters of at least 13 calendar weeks each, or the equivalent, exclusive of reading periods, examinations, and breaks;

(d) the program must not be completed exclusively during summer semesters, but a maximum of

four semester hours of credit may be earned in courses completed during summer semesters;

(e) the program must be completed within 24 months of matriculation;

(f) all coursework for the program must be completed through an ABA-accredited law school in the United States;

(g) the program must include:

(i) at least two semester hours of credit in professional responsibility;

(ii) at least two semester hours of credit in legal research, writing, and analysis, which may not be satisfied by a research-and-writing requirement in a substantive law course;

(iii) at least two semester hours of credit in a course designed to introduce students to distinctive aspects and fundamental principles of United States law, which may be satisfied by an introductory course in the American legal system or a course in United States constitutional law, civil procedure, or contract law—additional credit hours earned in a course that meets the requirements of this subparagraph may be applied towards the requirements of subparagraph (iv); and

(iv) at least six semester hours of credit in subjects tested on the Uniform Bar Examination.

~~(4)~~(7) All Colorado bar examination applicants must pay the required application fee.

~~(5)~~(8) All successful Colorado bar examination applicants must pass the Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), ~~as described in C.R.C.P. 203.2(5), prior to admission.~~ For applicants licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States and engaged in the active practice of law for 15 or more years without any public discipline at the time of application, a passing score previously accepted by another jurisdiction of the United States will be accepted for admission in Colorado without regard to when that passing score was achieved. For other applicants who are licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States a passing score will be valid if it was achieved at an examination taken not more than five years before acceptance of the application for admission in Colorado. For applicants who are not licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States, a passing score will be valid if it was achieved at an examination taken not more than two years before acceptance of the application for admission in Colorado. The Supreme Court shall review and determine the passing score for the MPRE for admission in Colorado.

~~(6)~~(9) **Professionalism Course.** All successful Colorado bar examination applicants must complete the course on professionalism, as described in C.R.C.P. 203.1(8), prior to and as a condition of admission. Credit for completion of the professionalism course will be valid for eighteen months following completion of the course.

~~(7)~~(10) Any unsuccessful applicant may, upon request, obtain a copy of the applicant's answers to the essay portions of the examination. Such request shall be made on a form furnished by the Office of Attorney Admissions. This rule does not permit applicants to obtain any materials other than the applicant's written essay answers.



**APPENDIX TO RULE 201**

[Repealed]

### **Rule 203.4. Applications for Admission by Colorado Bar Examination**

(1) [NO CHANGE]

(2) Colorado bar examination applications must be received on or before the first day of November preceding the February bar examination; or on or before the first day of April preceding the July bar examination; or at such other times as may be designated by the Supreme Court.

(3) By the time of the examination, Colorado bar examination applicants must have received:

(a) a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a law school approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association; or

(b) a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a state-accredited law school, provided that such applicant shall have been admitted in another jurisdiction of the United States and shall have been primarily engaged in the active practice of law, as defined by C.R.C.P. 203.2, for three of the five years immediately preceding application for bar examination admission in Colorado.

(4) An applicant who receives an LL.B., J.D., or equivalent degree from a school of higher education in a nation other than the United States can be exempt from the requirements of section (3) in this rule provided that such applicant meets all of the requirements of at least one of the following three eligibility categories:

(a) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is based on the principles of English common law and substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited or state-accredited U.S. law school;

(ii) is authorized to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction or another U.S. jurisdiction and is in good standing in all jurisdictions where admitted or authorized to practice; and

(iii) has been actively and substantially engaged in the lawful practice of law for at least three of the last five years as defined by C.R.C.P. 203.2 immediately preceding the applicant's most recent application; or

(b) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is based on the principles of English common law and substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; and

(ii) has completed an LL.M. degree that meets the curricular requirements of section (6) of this rule at an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; or

(c) the applicant:

(i) has completed a course of study at a foreign law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it is located, and the course of study is not based on the principles of English common law, but is substantially equivalent in duration to a J.D. legal education program provided by an ABA-accredited U.S. law school; and

(ii) is authorized to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction or in another U.S. jurisdiction and is in good standing in all jurisdictions where admitted or authorized to practice; and

(iii) has completed an LLM degree that meets the curricular requirements of section (6) of this rule at an ABA-accredited U.S. law school.

(5) A J.D. degree or an equivalent professional law degree completed at a foreign law school that is earned primarily through online courses or other distance-learning programs that do not meet the distance learning requirements of the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools does not satisfy the requirements of this rule.

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(a) the program must consist of minimum of 24 semester hours of credit—or the equivalent, if the law school is on an academic schedule other than a conventional semester system—which must consist of courses in substantive and procedural law or professional skills. Courses completed online or by other distance-learning programs that do not meet the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools will not count toward the required minimum 24 semester hours of credit required by this rule;

(b) the program must require at least 700 minutes of instruction time, exclusive of examination time, for the granting of one semester of credit;

(c) the program must include a period of instruction consisting of no fewer than two semesters of at least 13 calendar weeks each, or the equivalent, exclusive of reading periods, examinations, and breaks;

(d) the program must not be completed exclusively during summer semesters, but a maximum of four semester hours of credit may be earned in courses completed during summer semesters;

(e) the program must be completed within 24 months of matriculation;

(f) all coursework for the program must be completed through an ABA-accredited law school in the United States;

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(iii) at least two semester hours of credit in a course designed to introduce students to distinctive aspects and fundamental principles of United States law, which may be satisfied by an introductory

course in the American legal system or a course in United States constitutional law, civil procedure, or contract law—additional credit hours earned in a course that meets the requirements of this subparagraph may be applied towards the requirements of subparagraph (iv); and

(iv) at least six semester hours of credit in subjects tested on the Uniform Bar Examination.

**(7)** All Colorado bar examination applicants must pay the required application fee.

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**(10)** Any unsuccessful applicant may, upon request, obtain a copy of the applicant's answers to the essay portions of the examination. Such request shall be made on a form furnished by the Office of Attorney Admissions. This rule does not permit applicants to obtain any materials other than the applicant's written essay answers.

**Amended and Adopted by the Court, En Banc, December 8, 2021, effective immediately.**

**By the Court:**

**Monica M. Márquez  
Justice, Colorado Supreme Court**