

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

USPTO PATENT BAR

ANNUAL PATENT BAR EXAM REVIEW & REPORT

INCLUDES:

2025 Exam Statistics
Exam Changes in 2025
Exam Updates for 2026



Wysebridge Patent Bar Review

USPTO PATENT BAR EXAM

Annual Year in Review & Report

2025 EDITION



This review and report provides key highlights of the 2025 Patent Bar Exam, including:

- **2025 Patent Bar Exam Statistics:**A detailed breakdown of pass rates, testing trends, and candidate performance insights.
- **Exam Changes and Updates:**An overview of the significant updates to the exam content, format, and procedures that emerged during the year.
- **2026:** Potential changes and challenges, and opportunities for future candidates preparing for the Patent Bar.

Whether you're a current or prospective candidate, educator, or industry professional, this report equips you with the essential knowledge to stay ahead.



Disclaimer

The content presented in this publication is intended solely for educational and informational purposes, designed to assist candidates in preparing for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Patent Bar Exam. While Wysebridge Patent Bar Review strives to provide accurate, up-to-date, and comprehensive information, the USPTO periodically updates its rules, regulations, and procedures. As such, Wysebridge cannot guarantee the absolute accuracy or completeness of the information contained within this guide.

This document is not a substitute for professional legal advice, nor is it affiliated with or endorsed by the USPTO. The use of this material is at your own discretion and risk. Wysebridge Patent Bar Review and its authors expressly disclaim any and all responsibility for any errors or omissions in the content, as well as for any actions or results arising from reliance on the information provided. The USPTO Patent Bar Exam tests a wide range of knowledge areas, and individual performance on the exam may vary. Wysebridge makes no guarantee, either explicit or implied, regarding an individual's success or likelihood of passing the Patent Bar Exam after using this material.

Readers are encouraged to consult official USPTO resources and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) directly to verify any details relevant to their study. Furthermore, while this guide aims to simplify complex patent law topics, Wysebridge does not warrant that all concepts are covered in a manner that will apply to every test-taker's needs or that every exam scenario will be addressed.

By using this material, you agree to hold harmless Wysebridge Patent Bar Review, its authors, editors, and any affiliates from any and all claims, damages, liabilities, or losses, including any legal or professional outcomes, resulting from the use or interpretation of the content provided. Neither the authors nor Wysebridge Patent Bar Review assume any responsibility for any misinterpretations of the USPTO's requirements or procedures or for any consequences thereof.

The Patent Bar Exam is a rigorous and challenging examination, and success is dependent on a variety of factors, including the individual's background, effort, and comprehension of patent law. Wysebridge encourages users to employ multiple study resources and tools to ensure adequate preparation.

Copyright © 2025 Wysebridge Patent Bar Review

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations used in a review or citation.



The 2025 Snapshot

In Fiscal Year 2025:

- 2,278 Patent Bar exams were administered
- The national pass rate was 46%

The Long View: What 13 Years of Data Reveal

When you zoom out beyond any single year, this exam has remained consistent. Consistently one of the “hardest” bars to pass. Or rather, consistently maintains a roughly 50% passing rate.

From 2012–2025:

- The national average pass rate is 47%
- Most years fall tightly between 45% and 49%

Despite changes in:

- The MPEP
- The AIA settling in
- Computer-based testing
- Study resources becoming more abundant

...the outcome has stayed essentially flat.

What this tells us (and what we preach/teach)

The Patent Bar is **not** a knowledge exam. It is a procedural performance exam.

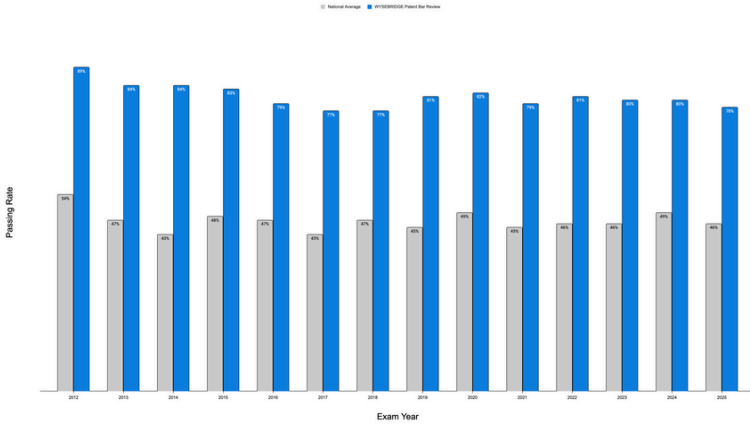
It does not reward:

- General familiarity with patent law
- Passive study
- Memorization without context

It rewards the ability to think and operate like the USPTO expects you to—under time pressure.



USPTO Patent Bar Exam Passing Rate National Average from 2012 - 2025



Wysebridge Patent Bar Review in Context

Across the same 13-year period:

- Wysebridge’s average pass rate is 81%
- In 2025 specifically: 78%

That performance gap has held steady across:

- Easy years and harder years
- Large cohorts and small cohorts
- First-time takers and repeat takers

This isn’t about a “good year” or a “strong class.” It’s about alignment.

When preparation matches the exam’s true demands, results follow—consistently.



Why People Fail the Patent Bar (Even After Studying a LOT)

This is the hardest part of the conversation, because most failures are not due to laziness or lack of intelligence (you all have advanced degrees in accelerated subjects).

They are due to misunderstanding what the exam is actually testing.

1. Preparing for Content Instead of Process

Many candidates (and even other programs) study patent law as a subject. The exam tests patent law as a workflow. If you don't know how rules interact, override, and sequence in practice, the questions will feel confusing—even when you “know” the material.

2. Relying Too Heavily on Passive Study

Videos, outlines, and summaries feel safe. They do not build exam reflexes.

The Patent Bar demands:

- Fast elimination of wrong answers
- Confident decision-making
- Efficient lookup—not exhaustive lookup

Those skills only develop through active, exam-style practice. No matter what you do, you HAVE to practice (and frankly, practicing is the best way to learn the content as well in your studies).

3. Poor Time and MPEP Management

Almost everyone plans to use the MPEP. Very few practice doing it well.

Common issues:

- Searching entire chapters
- Looking up answers already known
- Spending too long confirming low-yield details

Most failing scores are not “low.” They are just short of passing—and time is usually the culprit. That or they missed a few questions because they didn't learn the nuances of the exam or exam software.

4. Treating Every Question the Same

Successful candidates learn to triage. Unsuccessful candidates try to win every battle and lose the war. The exam rewards strategic restraint as much as knowledge.



2025 in Perspective

The 2025 results reaffirm something we've now seen for years: The exam is stable. The pass rate is predictable. The failure modes are consistent. There was no surprise difficulty spike. No easing of standards. No hidden curve.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Based on all available data, here's what we expect going forward: Pass Rates Will Stay Below 50%. There is no evidence suggesting a shift in USPTO philosophy thus a 45–48% national pass rate remains the most likely outcome.

Procedural Density Will Continue

Expect: Multi-step fact patterns, Close answer choices, Conditional logic (“if / then / unless”). The exam will continue rewarding candidates who understand how the USPTO actually operates and more specifically, how to TAKE the exam (not just learn Patent Law).

The Preparation Gap Will Matter More

As people take the exam, the difference between aligned and misaligned preparation widens. The middle collapses. Those who prepare correctly pass. Those who don't often miss by a narrow margin - we're talking only a few points.



What Is the USPTO Patent Bar Exam?

At its fundamental basis, the USPTO Patent Bar Exam is a professional licensing exam. Passing it allows you to represent inventors before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in patent matters.

- It is not a law school exam.
- It is not a test of creativity or policy arguments.
- And it is not about writing essays.

It is a procedural, rules-based exam designed to test whether you can operate competently inside the USPTO system and inside a time constrained environment. That's it.

What the Exam Actually Tests

The Patent Bar tests how patent prosecution works in practice, not just what patent law says in theory.

Specifically, the exam focuses on:

- USPTO procedures
- How applications are filed, examined, amended, appealed, allowed, or abandoned.
- Deadlines and timelines
- When actions must be taken, what happens if they aren't, and what options remain.
- Rules and exceptions
- Many questions hinge on a single condition, exception, or timing nuance.
- Process navigation
- Knowing where to find answers in official USPTO materials and applying them correctly under time pressure.

As of September 24, 2025, every question on the exam is drawn exclusively from the following:

1. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) Ninth Edition, Revision 01.2024 Published November 2024
2. Consolidated Trial Practice Guide - November 2019
3. Changes to Representation of Others Before the USPTO – Final Rules April 3, 2013
4. Implementation of the Global and IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Programs



What the Exam Is Not

This is important, because many candidates prepare for the wrong thing. The Patent Bar is not:

- A test of case law analysis
- A writing exam
- A memorization contest
- A general intellectual property knowledge quiz

You will not be rewarded for broad legal reasoning or theoretical understanding if you cannot apply USPTO procedure precisely.

Exam Format and Structure

The exam is:

- Multiple choice (100 questions - 50 questions per 3 hour segment)
- Computer-based
- Time-limited
- Administered in two sessions (morning and afternoon)

Questions are designed to be:

- Fact-heavy
- Procedurally dense
- Often very close in wording

Many incorrect answers look almost right—which is why preparation needs to emphasize decision-making and elimination, not guessing.

Where and How You Take the Exam

The Patent Bar is administered at official Prometric testing centers.

You:

- Apply through the USPTO
- Receive authorization to test
- Schedule your exam at a Prometric location
- Take the exam on a secure computer under supervised conditions

On exam day:

- You are provided access to the tested USPTO materials in electronic form
- You may search them during the exam
- Time management becomes critical



The ability to quickly locate and apply the right rule often makes the difference between passing and narrowly failing.

Why This Exam Feels So Different

Most professional exams reward familiarity. The Patent Bar rewards precision. It is designed so that:

- You don't need to know everything
- But you must know how to find and apply what matters
- Under strict time constraints
- Without second-guessing yourself into running out of time

This is why the national pass rate has stayed around the mid-40% range for over a decade—and why aligned preparation changes outcomes so dramatically.

A Wysebridge Perspective

We tell candidates this often: The Patent Bar isn't trying to trick you. It's trying to see if you can function inside a very specific system. Once you understand what the exam is—and what it isn't—it becomes far less mysterious. And that clarity is where confidence (and passing scores) come from.

A Final Word From Us

At Wysebridge, we don't believe the Patent Bar should feel mysterious or arbitrary. The data shows it isn't.

It's demanding, precise, and consistent—and when candidates meet it on its own terms, it's passable.

Our goal has always been simple:

Help candidates understand the exam the way the USPTO understands it.

The results speak for themselves.

USPTO PATENT BAR

WYSEBRIDGE ANNUAL EXAM REVIEW

Find key highlights of the 2025 Patent Bar Exam with our comprehensive Year in Review and Report. This report covers:

- **2025 Patent Bar Exam Statistics:** A detailed breakdown of pass rates, testing trends, and candidate performance insights.
- **Exam Changes and Updates:** An overview of the significant updates to the exam content, format, and procedures that emerged during the year.
- **Looking Ahead to 2026**

Whether you're a current or prospective candidate, educator, or industry professional, this report equips you with knowledge to stay ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of the Patent Bar Exam.



Wysebridge Patent Bar Review | [Wysebridge.com](https://www.wysebridge.com)