Passing the Bar: A Quick Reference Guide For Today’s Law Student  
By Allie Robbins

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Where Should You Study?

As you begin to plan your bar study, you want to think about where you will study. It can often be helpful to have more than one location to choose from, as switching locations can sometimes be helpful in regaining focus. For example, you may want to study at your law school during the day, and at home in the evenings.

You may already have a favorite study location from your time in law school and, if so, that is fine. But, you may decide that you want to change locations to reduce commute time, or you may be moving to a different location for bar study. If that is the case, you will want to check out your options. You may want to study at your law school, a different school, or a local public library. Before you settle on a study location, make sure you know what the hours are, and visit so that you can ask how busy the space is during the hours you are hoping to be there. Some students like to study in coffee shops. This is ok if you are someone who can focus with a lot of people and noise around.

A few things to ask before you choose a study location:

What are the hours of the study space?

What will my commute be like?

Can I leave things there over night?

How easy is it to find a power source to plug in my laptop/phone?

Will I have to purchase something each day in order to be able to study there?

Will I have to pack up all of my stuff every time I need to go to the bathroom?

Can I eat in the location? What food options are accessible?  
Will I be able to focus given the noise level and density of other people around?

If you are thinking about only studying at home, make sure that you develop a routine for yourself so that you can stay on track, and also maintain human contact. Waking up whenever you wake up, studying in your pajamas, and using your bed as a desk is not a plan. You should set a schedule for yourself with study times, wellness times, and meal times. Make sure you get outdoors at least once a day, and maintain contact with other human beings.

Wherever you decide to study, you want to block out distractions as much as possible. [There are a number of apps and software hacks, known as distraction blockers, that can help you with reducing internet distractions.](https://zapier.com/blog/stay-focused-avoid-distractions/) You may also want to purchase headphones or a white noise machine if sounds coming from elsewhere are distracting to you.

Wherever you decide to study, always have a backup location. There may be times that due to the weather, or simply fatigue, that you want to switch things up and break the routine. That is ok, but you should know where you will go on those days. Sometimes people like to study a few days per week at home and a few days per week at a law school or library. That is great. It does not have to be the same every single day. Other people like to study in the same place every day because they benefit from that routine. Either way is fine. The key is to know yourself, and your location, before you begin studying. If it turns out that it is not working, switch locations quickly so that you don’t waste time in an unproductive space.

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