

# New Mexico Gun Laws & Firearms Safety Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

- 1. What is required to obtain a concealed handgun license in New Mexico?**
  - A. Passing a background check**
  - B. Completion of a firearms training course**
  - C. Both A and B**
  - D. New Mexico residency for at least 1 year**
- 2. What age must an individual be to possess a handgun in New Mexico?**
  - A. 18 years or older**
  - B. 21 years or older**
  - C. 16 years or older with parental supervision**
  - D. There is no age requirement with parental consent**
- 3. In New Mexico, is it required to perform a background check for private gun sales?**
  - A. Yes, for all firearms**
  - B. No, it is not required**
  - C. Yes, but only for handguns**
  - D. Yes, but only for rifles and shotguns**
- 4. What constitutes a 'prohibited person' from owning firearms under New Mexico law?**
  - A. Anyone convicted of a felony**
  - B. Anyone under the age of 21**
  - C. Non-U.S. citizens**
  - D. All of the above**
- 5. Who can legally possess a firearm in New Mexico?**
  - A. Anyone over 18 without a felony conviction**
  - B. Only New Mexico residents**
  - C. Only US citizens**
  - D. Anyone over 21 without a felony conviction**

- 6. Who is prohibited from possessing a firearm in New Mexico?**
- A. Convicted felons**
  - B. Persons under 21**
  - C. Non-residents**
  - D. All of the above**
- 7. Does New Mexico have a stand-your-ground law?**
- A. Yes, in all situations**
  - B. No, there is a duty to retreat**
  - C. Yes, but only in your home**
  - D. Yes, under certain circumstances**
- 8. Does New Mexico have laws regarding the storage of firearms to protect children?**
- A. Yes**
  - B. No**
  - C. Yes, but only for loaded firearms**
  - D. Yes, but there are no specified penalties**
- 9. At what age can an individual legally possess a handgun in New Mexico without parental supervision?**
- A. 18 years old**
  - B. 19 years old**
  - C. 21 years old**
  - D. 25 years old**
- 10. Can non-residents apply for a concealed handgun license in New Mexico?**
- A. Yes, if they are from states with reciprocal agreements**
  - B. Yes, but only if they work in New Mexico**
  - C. No, only residents can apply**
  - D. Yes, without any restrictions**



## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is required to obtain a concealed handgun license in New Mexico?**

- A. Passing a background check**
- B. Completion of a firearms training course**
- C. Both A and B**
- D. New Mexico residency for at least 1 year**

In order to obtain a concealed handgun license in New Mexico, both passing a background check and completing a firearms training course are required. Option D, New Mexico residency for at least 1 year, is incorrect because there is no residency requirement for obtaining a concealed handgun license in New Mexico. Option A, passing a background check, is also incorrect because completing the firearms training course is also necessary for obtaining the license. Option B, completion of a firearms training course, is a partial answer and is incorrect because both options A and B are required. Therefore, the correct answer is C, both passing a background check and completing a firearms training course.

**2. What age must an individual be to possess a handgun in New Mexico?**

- A. 18 years or older**
- B. 21 years or older**
- C. 16 years or older with parental supervision**
- D. There is no age requirement with parental consent**

Individuals must be 21 years or older to possess a handgun in New Mexico. Option A (18 years or older) is incorrect because the minimum age requirement is higher. Option C (16 years or older with parental supervision) is incorrect because it states that parental supervision is required, whereas the correct answer does not specify any supervision. Option D (no age requirement with parental consent) is incorrect because it mentions parental consent, which is not a factor in the minimum age requirement. Therefore, the correct answer is B (21 years or older).

**3. In New Mexico, is it required to perform a background check for private gun sales?**

- A. Yes, for all firearms**
- B. No, it is not required**
- C. Yes, but only for handguns**
- D. Yes, but only for rifles and shotguns**

The correct answer is that background checks are required for all firearms sold through private sales in New Mexico. This law was enacted to increase safety and ensure that individuals who may pose a risk to themselves or others are not able to easily obtain firearms through private transactions. This requirement applies regardless of the type of firearm, whether it be a handgun, rifle, or shotgun. By mandating background checks for all private sales, New Mexico aims to prevent individuals with felony convictions, domestic violence misdemeanors, or other disqualifying factors from acquiring guns. The other options focus on either exemptions for certain types of firearms or suggest no background checks are necessary, which do not align with the current legal requirements in New Mexico. Thus, consistent and comprehensive application of background checks is seen as a crucial step in promoting responsible gun ownership and reducing gun violence.

**4. What constitutes a 'prohibited person' from owning firearms under New Mexico law?**

- A. Anyone convicted of a felony**
- B. Anyone under the age of 21**
- C. Non-U.S. citizens**
- D. All of the above**

In New Mexico, a 'prohibited person' is someone who is legally restricted from owning firearms due to specific criteria defined by law. One primary category includes individuals who have been convicted of a felony. This restriction exists because a felony conviction often indicates a significant level of criminal behavior that raises concerns about an individual's ability to responsibly handle firearms. While being under the age of 21 and being a non-U.S. citizen can also impose restrictions on firearm ownership, the critical factor that often classifies someone as a prohibited person is the felony conviction. Therefore, focusing on felony convictions as a defining criterion underscores why this option is central to the definition of a 'prohibited person' in relation to firearms ownership. Individuals under 21 may be subject to certain age restrictions when it comes to specific types of firearms, but this does not apply universally to all firearm ownership scenarios. Similarly, while non-U.S. citizens may face restrictions, the law primarily emphasizes felony convictions when classifying prohibited persons. Thus, felony conviction stands out as a significant reason for someone to be deemed prohibited from firearm ownership under New Mexico law.

## 5. Who can legally possess a firearm in New Mexico?

**A. Anyone over 18 without a felony conviction**

**B. Only New Mexico residents**

**C. Only US citizens**

**D. Anyone over 21 without a felony conviction**

The correct answer indicates that anyone over the age of 18 without a felony conviction can legally possess a firearm in New Mexico. This aligns with New Mexico's gun laws, where individuals who meet these criteria are allowed to own and possess firearms. The age requirement of 18 is significant as it aligns with federal law, which allows individuals of this age to purchase and possess long guns, such as rifles and shotguns. Having no felony conviction is also essential because individuals with felony convictions lose their right to bear arms in many jurisdictions, including New Mexico. This legal framework helps ensure that those who may pose a danger to public safety are restricted from firearm possession. Other options might suggest restrictions based on residency, citizenship, or a higher age limit, which do not reflect New Mexico's provisions regarding firearm possession for law-abiding citizens. Thus, the focus is rightly placed on age and criminal history as key determinants of firearm eligibility.

## 6. Who is prohibited from possessing a firearm in New Mexico?

**A. Convicted felons**

**B. Persons under 21**

**C. Non-residents**

**D. All of the above**

In New Mexico, it is illegal for convicted felons to possess firearms due to their criminal history. This is to help prevent further violence or crime from occurring. While options B and C may also be prohibited in certain situations, they are not prohibited just by the fact of residing in New Mexico. Option D is not the correct answer since not all of the options are prohibited, only convicted felons are.

## 7. Does New Mexico have a stand-your-ground law?

**A. Yes, in all situations**

**B. No, there is a duty to retreat**

**C. Yes, but only in your home**

**D. Yes, under certain circumstances**

New Mexico does indeed have a stand-your-ground law, but it applies under specific circumstances. This law allows individuals to use force, including deadly force, in self-defense when they feel that their life is in danger or are facing serious bodily harm, without the obligation to retreat first. However, the application of this law is contingent upon the context of the situation, such as whether the individual is in a place where they have a right to be and if they are facing a credible threat. In contrast, the other options do not accurately represent New Mexico's legal framework. The notion that there is a duty to retreat, for instance, does not apply when an individual is in a location where they have a legal right to be. Similarly, while self-defense is justified in the home, stand-your-ground principles are broader and can apply outside the home as long as specific conditions are met. Thus, the correct understanding of New Mexico's law encompasses the nuances and conditions that allow for stand-your-ground principles to be exercised appropriately.

**8. Does New Mexico have laws regarding the storage of firearms to protect children?**

**A. Yes**

**B. No**

**C. Yes, but only for loaded firearms**

**D. Yes, but there are no specified penalties**

Yes, New Mexico does have laws regarding the storage of firearms to protect children. In fact, it is a criminal offense to recklessly store or leave a loaded firearm that is accessible to a child under the age of 16. This law applies to both loaded and unloaded firearms, and there are specified penalties for violations, including fines and jail time. Option B is incorrect because it implies that there are no laws at all, which is not true. Option C is incorrect because it states that the laws only apply to loaded firearms, when in fact they apply to all firearms. Option D is incorrect because it states that there are no specified penalties, when in fact there are, as mentioned above.

**9. At what age can an individual legally possess a handgun in New Mexico without parental supervision?**

**A. 18 years old**

**B. 19 years old**

**C. 21 years old**

**D. 25 years old**

The correct answer is 21 years old because, according to New Mexico law, an individual must be at least 21 to legally possess a handgun without parental supervision. This age requirement reflects a broader legislative intent to ensure that individuals who own handguns have reached a level of maturity and responsibility deemed necessary for handling such firearms. In contrast, individuals under 21 may possess a handgun only under certain conditions, such as parental supervision. The law is designed to promote responsible gun ownership and safety, acknowledging that greater age may correlate with increased responsibility in managing firearms.

**10. Can non-residents apply for a concealed handgun license in New Mexico?**

- A. Yes, if they are from states with reciprocal agreements**
- B. Yes, but only if they work in New Mexico**
- C. No, only residents can apply**
- D. Yes, without any restrictions**

The correct answer is that non-residents can apply for a concealed handgun license in New Mexico if they are from states with reciprocal agreements. This is significant because New Mexico acknowledges the concealed carry permits issued by certain other states, making it possible for non-residents to carry concealed firearms legally in New Mexico as long as they have a valid permit from a state that has a reciprocity agreement in place. Understanding the context surrounding this involves recognizing the importance of these agreements in promoting safe and responsible gun ownership while also respecting the laws of various states. New Mexico's law aims to facilitate lawful gun carrying across state lines, but this is contingent on meeting specific criteria regarding the applicant's originating state. Other options tend to suggest either a restriction based on employment in the state or claim that only New Mexico residents can apply, which does not align with the state's approach to honoring those reciprocal agreements. Hence, it's essential to ensure that any non-resident wishing to obtain a concealed handgun license in New Mexico is aware of and adheres to these legal requirements and agreements.



## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://newmexicofirearms.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**