

List of State Reciprocity Requirements— Esthetics

In the esthetics profession, each state establishes licensure requirements for being able to practice in their state. Programs of study in esthetics can range anywhere from 250 clock hours to 1,200 clock hours, and as such, states develop specific requirements for individuals who graduated from esthetics school in one state to be able to become licensed in another state. This process is considered reciprocity or endorsement. We have listed the requirements for an individual who graduates from an esthetics program in the United States and wants to become licensed in another state.

Please note that the school you are planning on attending has only had their curriculum evaluated by their state to meet requirements for licensure and practice. In the field of esthetics, each state board reviews the number of clock hours you attended in your home state, the subject areas, and practical experiences you completed as a part of the process of determining what, if any, additional requirements you may have to meet in order to be licensed in their state. We encourage all graduates who are considering becoming licensed in another state to first take the licensure exam in their home state, which will make it easier to transfer to another state. If you are not licensed by your home state, the state you are considering getting licensed in may require you to take additional training to meet their state minimum hour requirements and/or take their state licensure exam. State boards of esthetics do not evaluate the curriculum of schools located in other states, but do, in most cases, recognize training from other states. Please refer to the requirements below.

| STATE | ACCEPTS CURRICULUM | RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS |
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| Alabama | The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure. | The state reviews each request after receiving a copy of the license from the transferring state. The individual is required to pay a fee to apply and may be required to take any exams based on the state they are transferring from. |
| Alaska | Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,500 hours). | Current license must be in a state with equivalent requirements; must have 1 year of full-time employment + 1,500 school hours OR 2 years of full-time employment, and must pay a fee. |
| Arizona | The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure. | Provide certification of hours, proof of graduation, or license from another state that reflects school hours attended and initial and final dates of license, and pay a fee. |
| Arkansas | The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure. | Must provide and send a copy of certification of license record to the cosmetology board, provide certification of exam record and proof of training, and pay a fee. |
| California | The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure. | The board will grant out-of-state licensees a California license through reciprocity without having to take the California written and practical exam, if they meet the following requirements: (a) A completed application form and all fees required by the California board. (b) Proof of a current license issued by another state to practice that meets all of the following requirements: (1) It is not revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted. (2) It is in good standing. (3) It has been active for three of the last five years, during which time the applicant has not been subject to disciplinary action or a criminal conviction. |

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| Colorado | Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (600 hours). | The state will issue a license by endorsement to practice esthetics in another state to an individual who possesses an active license in good standing, if the applicant presents proof of a valid license from another state that is substantially equivalent to the requirements in Colorado for licensure (600 hours). If not, the individual may be required to take additional training prior to becoming licensed. |
| Connecticut | Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,500 hours). | An applicant for licensure based on an out-of-state license may qualify for licensure provided the applicant holds a current esthetics license at the time of application in another state and was issued such license on the basis of successful completion of a similar program of education and training (1,500 hours), and the applicant successfully completed an examination. |
| Delaware | Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,500 hours). | Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,500 hours), or submit a notarized statement from an employer certifying that the individual has been working in the field for at least 1 year uninterrupted just prior to applying. Must have passed a written and practical examination which was professionally developed and used on a national basis. |
| District of Columbia | The district allows anyone who completed a program and licensure in another state to request licensure by reciprocity. | Complete an approved esthetics program; submit an Esthetician Application for Examination and take and pass the written and practical esthetician examinations. |
| Florida | Hold an active license in another state with equal or greater requirements (260). | Florida does not offer reciprocity. Hold an active license in another state with equal or greater requirements (260 hours) and have taken and passed a written exam, or complete additional training hours to qualify. |
| Georgia | Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (1,000 hours). | The state will accept licensees from other states with similar licensure requirements (1,000 hours). Apply, pay a fee, and have no disciplinary action against current license. |
| Hawaii | Does not recognize licenses from other states. | The state has no reciprocal arrangements with any other board of esthetics. Must show proof of similar/ equivalent testing and education requirements (600 hours) to those of Hawaii. |
| Idaho | Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (600 hours). | Must be currently licensed by another state. The certification of licensure must show that the individual's training was substantially equivalent to, or higher than, those required in Idaho (600 hours). Proof of having taken and passed practical and written exam. |
| Illinois | The state allows anyone who completed a program and licensure in another state to request licensure by endorsement. | Illinois offers esthetics licensure by endorsement. The applicant must be currently licensed as an esthetician in his or her home state. To seek licensure in Illinois by endorsement, an individual must file an application, provide certification of licensure from his or her home state, documentation of the hours and exams completed in his or her home state, and transcripts from the esthetics school attended. |

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| Indiana | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 700 hours of training. | Current license must meet the same standards that Indiana requires, which is a minimum of 700 hours of training. If the individual does not have at least 700 hours of training, 1 year of licensed practice may substitute for 100 hours of education to an applicant who has completed a minimum of 400 hours of education. The state must also require a passing score of at least 70% on the written and practical exams. If the applicant has a conviction record, include a copy of the conviction record that indicates the disposition of the conviction. |
| Iowa | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Licensure through endorsement is an option. Each application for transfer is reviewed by the Iowa board on a case by case basis. The applicant's home state must have similar or equivalent licensing requirements to those of Iowa (600 hours). The individual must have taken and passed a national theory exam. |
| Kansas | The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state that has reciprocity to request licensure. | If an individual has 1,000 hours or more of training and an active license in another state, he/she is required to take a 20-question, open-book exam. If an individual has 1,000 hours or more of training and no license, or the license has expired, he/she must take the board exams (written and practical). If an individual has less than 1,000 hours and an active license, he/she must take board exams (written and practical). If an individual has less than 1,000 hours and no license or an expired license, he/she must obtain additional hours and take the board exams (written and practical). |
| Kentucky | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 750 hours of training. | Must provide a certification of hours and/or license from the state licensing agency where the hours were obtained. If the applicant's hours obtained out of state are equivalent to Kentucky's hourly requirement (750 hours), then the applicant will apply as an out-of-state exam applicant. If the applicant does not have enough hours, the applicant must complete the remaining hours required for licensure in a school of cosmetology in Kentucky before applying for the licensing exam. |
| Louisiana | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Persons currently holding a license in esthetics may be licensed. If they took the NIC exam, they only need to take the state law test. If they did not take the NIC exam, they would be required to take the NIC exam and the state law test. |
| Maine | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Licensure by endorsement is available if the individual's home state has similar training hour requirements (600 hours) and board exams. An individual may be required to take Maine's board exam if his or her state doesn't have similar licensing requirements. |

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| Maryland | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Maryland does not provide reciprocity for esthetics licenses. In order to apply, a person must possess a current license in another state, provide certification that his/her license is in good standing and was obtained under the same standards as required in Maryland (600 hours), and take the state board examination. |
| Massachusetts | Does not recognize licenses from other states. | Massachusetts does not provide for reciprocity from other states. An individual must take the state's written and practical board exams, apply, and pay a fee. |
| Michigan | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 400 hours of training. | Training and testing requirements in home state must be substantially equal to Michigan's requirements (400 hours). If the home state's requirements aren't similar, the licensee may be required to take additional training hours and take the written and practical exams. |
| Minnesota | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Must show verification of licensure, completion of exams, an application for reciprocity, and pay a fee. If the individual does not have at least 600 hours of training in his/her home state, he/she may make up the difference with training hours in either the home state or Minnesota. |
| Mississippi | Accepts the training provided in other states. | To apply for licensure, have a record of training and license status sent from the home state to the Mississippi board and appear before the board for a credentialing interview. Licensure is determined on a case-by-case basis. |
| Missouri | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 750 hours of training. | Hold a current license in a state with substantially similar or superior requirements (750 hours). If the individual has less hours than Missouri, he/she will need to take additional training. NIC testing is required for all transfers. |
| Montana | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Hold a current license and proof of passing both the written and practical NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) esthetics exam. |
| Nebraska | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training; however, may also require work experience if program was less than 600 hours. | Currently licensed as an esthetician in another state. Must have completed at least 600 hours esthetic training and have successfully passed a written examination. If a written examination was not required for licensure in another state, the individual must take the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) examination. If the individual did not complete a 600 esthetic training program, Nebraska will consider work experience as follows: For each month of full-time practice as an esthetician within the 5 years immediately prior to the application, each month counts for 100 hours. |
| Nevada | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Hold a license in good standing from home state, provide proof of having taken and passed the NIC written exam, and take the Nevada law exam. |

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| New Hampshire | The state will accept any applicant who is similarly licensed in any other state, provided the other state's licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to or higher (600 hours). | Must have an equivalent or higher number of training hours from home state (600 hours) and have passed a written and practical national exam. If the individual does not have enough training hours, the licensee must possess twice the number of hours of work experience or take additional training hours. |
| New Jersey | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Applicants must demonstrate certification of training from the home state that is substantially equivalent to the training offered in New Jersey (600 hours). Applicants holding a license from another state who have practiced the skin care specialty for at least three years in that state may submit, in lieu of the documentation of training required in this paragraph, a notarized affidavit of work experience and a letter of certification of licensure from the licensing authority in that state. |
| New Mexico | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Provide an affidavit from the home state's regulatory agency where currently licensed, hold a current license in good standing with the individual's home state, and have completed equal or comparable training hours (600 hours). If lacking hours, licensee may substitute up to 150 hours of verified work experience in lieu of the minimum hours. Any remaining hours would need to be taken in school. |
| New York | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | The state may waive the New York State schooling requirement if an individual can document an equivalent level of schooling from another state (600 hours). The individual must also provide a school certificate, a school transcript listing subjects and hours completed, and a current, original certification of licensure from the individual's home state board. |
| North Carolina | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a current license in a state with equal or higher requirements (600 hours); at least 3 years of recent, licensed work experience; and may be required to take state licensure exams. |
| North Dakota | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a current license as an esthetician from another state that has substantially the same requirements for licensing (600 hours). Completion of formal education in a school of esthetics. May be required to take the state exam for sanitary practices and the law. |
| Ohio | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Any person who holds a current license as an esthetician in any other state whose requirements for licensure are substantially equivalent (600 hours) may apply to the board for a license. A year of licensed experience may be substituted for one hundred hours of training, up to a maximum of five hundred hours in total. Must take and pass Ohio's practical and theoretical examination. |

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| Oklahoma | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Education and work experience must be equal to, or greater than, Oklahoma's state requirements (600 hours) and 3 years of currently licensed work experience. If both requirements aren't met, licensees may be required to take Oklahoma board exams and/or additional training hours. |
| Oregon | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 500 hours of training. | To obtain an Oregon practitioner certification in esthetics by reciprocity, a person will have to provide proof of licensure in another state and pass all relevant Oregon written examinations. Proof of licensure in another state must show that the education received is substantially equivalent to Oregon certification requirements (500 hours). |
| Pennsylvania | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Reciprocity can be granted to individuals licensed in those states with which Pennsylvania has reciprocity. To qualify for licensure by reciprocity, an individual must have a current license and 2 years of working experience from the original licensure date. If the applicant does not meet the requirements for reciprocity, the Pennsylvania examination (theory and practical) must be successfully completed. |
| Rhode Island | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Rhode Island does not offer reciprocity; it offers licensure by endorsement. The applicant must meet Rhode Island requirements (600 hours). If the licensee doesn't meet criteria, he or she must get additional training hours at a school and take the state exam. For esthetics, 15 months of work can be considered the equivalent to 200 training hours. |
| South Carolina | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Hold a current license, which is in good standing, in another state and must have passed the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) examination (theory and practical). If the individual did not take and pass the NIC examination, he/she will be required to take the exam before a license can be issued. |
| South Dakota | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a current license which is in good standing in another state. Must take and pass the South Dakota Laws and Rules exam and have taken a course of at least 600 hours of training in another state. |
| Tennessee | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 750 hours of training. | Proof of meeting Tennessee's minimum required training hours (750 hours) and/or proof of a 5-year work history. If licensee is unable to meet these requirements, he or she must submit an application to the board and may be required to take additional training hours to meet requirements. |
| Texas | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 750 hours of training. | License holders from other states and territories may be eligible for a Texas license if their state has education and examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to Texas (750 hours). |

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| Utah | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Submit verification of current license; must meet educational (600 hours) and exam requirements. |
| Vermont | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (600 hours), and pass a state law exam. |
| Virginia | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (600 hours), and pass a practical and written exam. |
| Washington | Accepts the training provided in other states. | Have a current license in good standing in another state and have taken and passed a written and practical exam in their state of licensure. |
| West Virginia | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (600 hours). Licensed work will be accepted in place of training hours, rewarded at 25 hours per month of licensed work, or 300 hours per year. Work experience may not exceed 50% of required training hours to transfer and must be acquired in the past 5 years. If applicant hasn't worked in the last 5 years, he or she must take required exams. |
| Wisconsin | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 450 hours of training. | Upon application and payment of the fee, the department may grant a license to practice esthetics to an applicant who is licensed in another state to perform services that are substantially the same as those performed by a licensed esthetician in Wisconsin. The applicant: completes a one-hour course educating the applicant on statutes and rules that apply to the practice; has never been disciplined by the licensing authority that issued his/her license; and is not a party to a proceeding before the licensing agency. |
| Wyoming | Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training. | Must have a current license from another state, have graduated from a licensed esthetics school, have taken a written and practical exam given by the board or testing company, and meets or exceeds the 600-hour requirements to receive a Wyoming license. If the individual does not have 600 hours of training, then he/she must have at least one year of work experience. |