

List of State Reciprocity Requirements— Cosmetology

In the cosmetology profession, each state establishes licensure requirements for being able to practice in their state. Programs of study in cosmetology can range anywhere from 1,000 clock hours to 2,100 clock hours, and as such, states develop specific requirements for individuals who graduated from cosmetology 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 a cosmetology 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; however, in the field of cosmetology, each state board reviews the number of clock hours you attended in your home state and 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. State boards of cosmetology do not evaluate the curriculum of schools located in other states.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Alabama	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	Request certification to be sent from current state; contact the state board for paperwork and exams; and pay a \$100 fee.
Alaska	Hold a current license in a state with equivalent requirements (1,650 hours).	Hold a current license in a state with equivalent requirements (1,650 hours); or 1 year of full-time employment + 1,500 school hours; or 2 years of full-time employment in the field.
Arizona	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	At least 1 year of practice in the current state of licensure within the five years prior to application.
Arkansas	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	Hold a valid cosmetology license; have certification of licensure and training; and pass a state law exam.
California	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	Must hold a cosmetology license in good standing in home state and must be licensed for 3 out of the last 5 years.
Colorado	Hold a valid license from home state with equivalent requirements (1,800 hours).	Apply for licensure by endorsement and hold a valid license from home state with equivalent requirements (1,800 hours).
Connecticut	Hold a valid license from home state with equivalent requirements (1,500 hours).	Hold a valid license from a state with equivalent requirements (1,500 hours) and pass a written exam.
Delaware	Must be licensed in a state with equal requirements (1,500 hours).	Must be licensed in a state with equal requirements (1,500 hours) or submit a notarized statement from an employer certifying that you have been working in the field for at least 5 years.
District of Columbia	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,500 hours).	If applying for licensure by reciprocity, the applicant must provide: a letter of good standing from a jurisdiction with requirements which were substantially equivalent at the time of the applicant's licensure to those of the District of Columbia (1,500 hours); have passed an examination acceptable to the board; have an active certification from a recognized national certifying organization; and have not been disciplined or otherwise disqualified by the national certifying organization.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Florida	Hold an active license in another state with equal requirements (1,200).	Hold an active license in another state with equal requirements (1,200 hours) or complete additional training hours to qualify for endorsement.
Georgia	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (1,500 hours).	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (1,500 hours) and submit an application and fee for endorsement.
Hawaii	Completed similar or equivalent education requirements (1,800 hours).	Completed similar or equivalent education requirements (1,800 hours) and may be required to take written and practical exams.
Idaho	Completed similar or equivalent education requirements (1,600 hours).	The holder of a current license in another state may also be eligible for licensure by endorsement if an applicant either: holds a current license from another state whose standards are not less than Idaho standards (1,600 hours), or the applicant holds a current license from another state and has met work experience requirements of at least one year of actual practice under certification or licensure in the three years immediately prior to the application in the profession for which the license is being sought. If the applicant does not meet the equal standards or experience requirement, additional training and examination will be required. An applicant must show proof of training equivalent to the Idaho requirements and pass the examination(s). Applicants who do not meet the equivalent training requirement must graduate from a licensed Idaho school of barbering or cosmetology.
Illinois	The state allows anyone who completed a program and licensure in another state to request licensure by endorsement.	Apply for licensure by endorsement by providing certification of licensure from the current state board.
Indiana	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours and have achieved a passing score of at least 70% on written and practical exams.
Iowa	Must be licensed in a state with similar or equivalent requirements (2,100 hours).	Transfer through endorsement and must be licensed in a state with similar or equivalent requirements (2,100 hours) for 12 of the last 24 months.
Kansas	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Must be licensed in a state with similar or equivalent requirements (1,500 hours), and must pass an open-book exam.
Kentucky	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	Must have a certification of license from the state board that issued the license and may be required to take state licensing exams.
Louisiana	Reciprocity to those states that use the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) test.	Applicants in WI, VT, TX, TN, NY, MN, MI, MA, MD, KS, HI, FL, CT, and CO must take the NIC exam (NIC, state theory, and practical exams).
Maine	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a valid license in another state with similar requirements (1,500 hours). If requirements differ, must pass state exams.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Maryland	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a valid license in another state with similar requirements (1,500 hours) and provide certification that license is current and in good standing.
Massachusetts	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Must pass the state's written and practical board exams.
Michigan	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a valid license in another state with similar or greater requirements (1,500 hours).
Minnesota	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Verification of current licensure, high school diploma, completion of exams, and an application for reciprocity.
Mississippi	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Submit an application, an affidavit/certification of training that meets Mississippi's reciprocity requirements, and appear for an application eligibility interview.
Missouri	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a current license in a state with substantially similar or superior requirements (1,500 hours), and must have practiced cosmetology for two consecutive years in another state.
Montana	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 2,000 training hours.	Hold a license in a state with comparable training and testing requirements (2,000 hours); may be required to take additional training hours plus take national exams.
Nebraska	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 2,100 training hours.	Hold a current license in another jurisdiction issued on the basis of a written and practical examination, and complete a cosmetology course consisting of at least 2,100 hours.
Nevada	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,600 training hours.	Must have a current license (in good standing) in another state and must have passed the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) written exam in the state of licensure or take the exam in Nevada.
New Hampshire	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Must have completed 1,500 training hours in home state and pass a hands-on practical exam and a national written exam in English.
New Jersey	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,200 training hours.	Hold a current license in another state with satisfactory requirements (1,200 hours); otherwise, must submit an "out-of-state" application and required documentation and pass state exams.
New Mexico	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,600 training hours.	Provide verification of licensure in another state with similar or superior requirements (1,600 hours). May substitute 150 credit hours for each 6 full months of licensed experience.
New York	The state limits the acceptable curriculum to those states on the approved list.	Must be currently licensed from a state on NY's reciprocity list. In some instances, must have 1+ years of licensure in order to qualify. The list of 21 states and the number of years licensed to qualify for reciprocity can be accessed here: https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/endorsement.html#cosmetology

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
North Carolina	The state limits the acceptable curriculum to those states on the approved list.	Hold a current license in good standing, meaning no disciplinary actions. Licensed in a state that offers reciprocity to North Carolina. The list of 13 states that have reciprocity with North Carolina can be accessed here: https://www.nccosmeticarts.com/initiallicensing/outstategraduates.aspx . An individual from a state that does not have reciprocity may provide a copy of his/her transcripts for verification. If the required practical experiences were not obtained, the individual may need to take additional training in a cosmetology school to meet the state's requirements.
North Dakota	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Provide a letter of certification from the current state board and a copy of the state's licensing requirements, and must take the North Dakota Laws, Rules and Regulations exam.
Ohio	Does not recognize curriculums from other states.	Does not offer reciprocity; must take and pass Ohio's practical, theoretical, and manager exams.
Oklahoma	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a current license in a state with equal or higher requirements (1,500 hours); have at least 3 years of recent, licensed work experience; and may be required to take state licensure exams.
Oregon	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Submit an affidavit of licensure and a qualifying application and pass the written exam, which includes the Oregon Laws and Rules exam.
Pennsylvania	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Hold a current license and have 2 years of working experience from the original licensure dates.
Rhode Island	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a license in another state with equivalent educational requirements (1,500 hours). Work experience may be considered. Must pass licensing exams.
South Carolina	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Hold a current license (in good standing) in another state and must have passed a nationally recognized exam.
South Dakota	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 2,100 training hours.	Hold a current license from a state with equal or greater requirements (2,100 hours); work experience may be considered (2 work hours = 1 school hour). Must pass the South Dakota Laws and Rules exam.
Tennessee	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Provide proof of a current license from another state with equal requirements (1,500 hours); may substitute with proof of 5 years of work experience.
Texas	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 training hours.	Licensed in a state with substantially equivalent requirements (1,000 hours); in some cases, work experience may be credited.
Utah	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,600 training hours.	Submit verification of current license; must meet educational (1,600 hours) and exam requirements.
Vermont	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,500 training hours.	Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (1,500 hours), and pass a state law exam.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Virginia	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,200 hours (80% of the 1,500 hours required by the state).	Have a current license in a state with substantially similar training requirements (1,200 hours or 80% of the 1,500 hours required by the state) and submit an application for endorsement and proof of licensure.
Washington	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Have a current license in good standing in another state.
West Virginia	Accepts the training provided in other states if the state uses the NIC examination for licensure.	If licensed in a state that uses the National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC) examination, you must take and pass the state law exam; if licensed in a state that does not use the NIC examination, you would need to submit an application for review.
Wisconsin	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Currently licensed in another state.
Wyoming	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 2,000 training hours.	Currently licensed in a state with equal requirements (2,000 hours); must have graduated from a state-recognized school and have taken board-administered exams.

List of State Reciprocity Requirements—

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
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.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
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.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
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.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCIITY REQUIREMENTS
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.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
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.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
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).

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
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.

List of State Reciprocity Requirements— Cosmetology Instructor

In the field of teacher/instructor training, each state establishes licensure requirements for being able to practice in their state. Programs of study in teacher/instructor training can range anywhere from 160 clock hours to 1,000 clock hours, and as such, states develop specific requirements for individuals who graduated from school in another state to become licensed in their state. This process is considered reciprocity or endorsement. We have listed the requirements for an individual who graduates from a teacher/instructor program in the United States and who 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 the requirements for licensure and practice. In the field of teacher/instructor training, 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 into 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 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
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	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure; however, the state may request additional work and education experience.	Verification of a current hairdresser instructor license issued by another licensing jurisdiction. Verification of a current license to practice as a hairdresser in Alaska. Verification of training and experience equivalent to that required in Alaska, including verification of at least three years of practice as a licensed hairdresser in Alaska or another licensing jurisdiction. If you intend to teach in more than one profession, you must verify three years of work experience in each profession, OR verify one year of practice in a licensed field in Alaska or in another licensed jurisdiction followed by 600 hours of student instructor training in a school approved by the board or by another jurisdiction.
Arizona	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (650 hours).	Must be licensed for at least a year in the field that you want to teach. Complete an instructor training course in another state that has the same or greater requirements than Arizona (650 hours). Pass the exam for an instructor's license and have five years of licensed industry experience in the last 10 years.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCIITY REQUIREMENTS
Arkansas	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (600 hours).	The applicant must have passed both a written and practical national or department-approved examination; must have a current, valid license issued under the laws of another state; and the scope of practice for which the applicant is licensed in another state must be equal to or greater than the particular class of license that the applicant is applying for in the state of Arkansas (600 hours).
California	The state does not require licensure as a teacher; however, a person must be licensed as a practitioner in the subject area taught.	Must have a valid license as a practitioner in the subject area the individual will teach, and certification through post-secondary education.
Colorado	The state does not require licensure as a teacher; however, a person must be licensed as a practitioner in the subject area taught.	Must hold a Colorado cosmetology license and have two years of experience.
Connecticut	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	Must hold a Connecticut cosmetology license and have taken and passed an instructor examination.
Delaware	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (500 hours or 250 hours and two years of experience).	Cosmetologist instructor—500 classroom hours in a teacher training course and license in the individual's home state, or two years of experience as an active, licensed, practicing cosmetologist plus at least 250 hours of instruction in a teacher training course in cosmetology.
District of Columbia	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (1,000 hours).	If applying for licensure by reciprocity, the applicant must provide a letter of good standing from a jurisdiction with requirements which were substantially equivalent at the time of the applicant's licensure to those of the District of Columbia (1,000 hours); have passed an examination acceptable to the board; have an active certification from a recognized national certifying organization; and have not been disciplined or otherwise disqualified by the national certifying organization relied upon for the application for licensure by endorsement.
Florida	Hold an active license in another state.	In Florida, the only requirement that must be met to become a cosmetology instructor is to attend a cosmetology school that offers a certification program.
Georgia	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (750 hours).	The state will accept licensees from other states with similar licensure requirements (750 hours). The applicant must apply, pay a fee, and have no disciplinary action against his/her license. The individual must have been licensed in a qualifying state for at least one year and hold a Georgia license in his/her field. States not eligible for reciprocity with GA: AK, PA, MD, MA, ME, and VA.
Hawaii	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (600 hours).	Currently licensed as a beauty operator or instructor for at least one year in Hawaii or in another jurisdiction, and must complete at least 600 hours of beauty school instructor training in compliance with the board's curriculum. Take and pass the state board examination.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCIITY REQUIREMENTS
Idaho	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (900 hours or 500 hours plus work experience).	The holder of a current license in another state may be eligible for licensure. Licensure may be gained through endorsement if an applicant either holds a current license from another state whose standards are not less than Idaho standards, or holds a current license from another state and has met work experience requirements. If an individual does not meet the equal standards or experience requirement, additional training and examination will be required. An applicant must show proof of training equivalent to the Idaho requirements and pass the examination(s). Must take a six-month (minimum) course of cosmetology instructing as a student in a licensed cosmetology school, provided that the course consists of no less than nine hundred (900) hours; or take a three-month (minimum) course of cosmetology instructing as a student in a licensed cosmetology school if the applicant has at least two (2) years of experience as a licensed cosmetologist, provided that the course consists of no less than five hundred (500) hours.
Illinois	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training or 500 hours of education and work experience.	Must be currently licensed by another state as both a cosmetologist and an instructor. Submit official transcripts of teacher training from the cosmetology school attended with the school seal affixed. Certification of licensure must be completed by the state of original licensure stating a brief description of any licensure examination taken and the grades received. It must also state whether there is any record of disciplinary actions taken or pending. If the individual completed less than 1,000 hours but at least 500 hours of teacher training, the individual must verify at least two (2) years of lawful practice in another jurisdiction.
Indiana	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training or 700 hours of education and work experience.	Applicant must provide a license certification from their jurisdiction. Applicant's jurisdiction must require 1,000 hours of beauty culture instructor education in a beauty culture school. One (1) year of licensed practice may substitute for one hundred (100) hours of education for an applicant who has completed a minimum of 700 hours of instructor education. The home state must require a score of at least 70% on both the written and practical licensing exams.
Iowa	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	Official transcript or diploma that meets the requirements of Iowa Administrative Code (1,000 hours), OR official verification of licensure verifying the applicant has held an active license in another state for at least 12 of the last 24 months directly preceding submission of the application. Board staff will determine whether the previous exam meets Iowa requirements; if it does not, the applicant will be required to take the NIC exam before he/she can be licensed in Iowa.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Kansas	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	An individual must have a Kansas practitioner license first before he/she can be considered for an instructor license. Must also have verification of instructor hours sent to the Kansas board from the state in which they were acquired.
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 hour 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 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.	A person currently holding an instructor license who took the NIC exam only needs to take the state law test. If a person did not take the NIC exam, he/she would be required to take the NIC exam and the state law test.
Maine	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Must have an original verification of licensure from the state licensing board or jurisdiction that the individual currently holds a valid instructor license.
Maryland	The state does not require licensure as a teacher; however, a person must be licensed as a practitioner in the subject area taught.	Maryland does not require cosmetology instructors to be licensed.
Massachusetts	Does not recognize licenses from other states.	A person who has graduated from a cosmetology program satisfactory to the board and has had a minimum of two years of experience as either a Massachusetts-licensed cosmetologist or an assistant cosmetology instructor may apply to the board for licensure as a cosmetology instructor. He/she must file an application with the board, pay the required fees, and achieve a passing score on an examination satisfactory to the board.
Michigan	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 500 hours of training.	Must be licensed as a cosmetologist. Training and testing requirements in the home state must be substantially equal to Michigan's requirements (500 hours). If the home state's requirements aren't similar, the licensee may be required to take additional training hours and the written and practical exams.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Minnesota	Experience verification showing at least 2,700 hours of licensed practice within the past three years.	The individual must have a current instructor license in another state. He/she must contact the board in each state where he/she has ever held an instructor license and request certification(s) of licensure to be mailed directly to the board office. The certification must verify at least one current, active instructor license in another state. If the certification(s) verify the individual successfully completed comparable instructor training, a course completion certificate will not be required. If the certificate(s) verify the individual has passed an instructor general exam and/or an instructor practical exam (or the equivalent of each), he/she will not be required to take and pass the verified exam(s). Otherwise, the individual will be required to take and pass the exam(s). The individual must have an active Minnesota operator or salon manager license in order to obtain an instructor license.
Mississippi	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	Must possess a current Mississippi practitioner's license. Must have completed six (6) semester hours in college courses approved by the board. Must have 1,000 hours of instructor training in a licensed school of cosmetology. Must have attended one mandatory board "methods of teaching" seminar, earning a minimum of five (5) continuing education hours. Must submit an affidavit completed and signed by the board official in the state from which the current license is held attesting to licensure status and any disciplinary action within the past five (5) years. Must submit a certified transcript of completion of the course of training for which the application for approval for the examination is being made or an affidavit attesting to the education.
Missouri	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training.	Hold a current license in a state with substantially similar or superior requirements (600 hours). If the individual has less hours than Missouri requires, he/she will need to take additional training. NIC testing is required for all transfers.
Montana	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Must have a license to practice issued by the department in the particular area of practice in which the person plans to teach. Must have been actively engaged in that particular area of practice for 12 continuous months before taking the teacher's examination. Must have received a diploma from a licensed school approved by the board certifying satisfactory completion of 650 hours of student teacher training, or have three years of experience in that particular area of practice. A person who qualifies for a license under this subsection has two years to complete board-approved coursework related to teaching methodology before a license to teach is renewed.
Nebraska	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training.	An individual must hold a current Nebraska cosmetology license. An individual must have completed at least 600 hours of cosmetology instructor training. If the individual did not complete a 600-hour training program, the state will consider work experience as follows: each month of full-time practice as a cosmetology instructor within the five years immediately prior to this application counts for 100 hours toward cosmetology instructor training.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Nevada	Accepts the training provided in other states.	In order to be eligible for reciprocity in the state of Nevada, an individual's license must be active and in good standing in another state. Applicants must complete an application, submit the required information, and pass a 25-question Nevada state law test with a score of 75% or higher to become licensed.
New Hampshire	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Requires certification of state licensure verifying an individual's current license, testing information, and disciplinary action (if any). This must be obtained from the state board in which the license is held. Instructor license applications require a certification for the professional license and the instructor license. Requires transcripts of training from the school attended.
New Jersey	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 500 school hours + 30-hour teaching methods course.	Applicants who have obtained training in another state shall demonstrate certification from the licensing authority in the state that such training is substantially equivalent to the training offered in New Jersey (500 school hours + 30-hour teaching methods course), or the individual may be required to take more training. An applicant must also have taken and passed a practical examination in his/her state of licensure.
New Mexico	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	Applicants who do not meet the New Mexico hourly requirements (1,000 hours) may receive 150 hours of credit for each six full months of licensed experience. Work experience less than six full months will not be considered toward training hours. To obtain any license by reciprocity, no more than fifty percent of the hours required for licensure by in-state applicants may be obtained by work experience. Must have an affidavit from the state regulatory agency verifying that the applicant holds a current license and is in good standing with the state. Licensure in multiple states may require the applicant to send an affidavit from each state. If not a licensee, the applicant must provide a certified transcript for the course of study or an affidavit of hours from the regulatory agency or school attended, and he/she must submit to the New Mexico examination for licensure.
New York	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Must have a cosmetology license; two years of experience; and have taken the Secondary Assessment of Teaching Skills written exam. 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	Accepts the training provided in other states, except Florida and Alaska.	The state accepts licenses from other states that offer reciprocity and will only have to apply; here is a list: https://www.nccosmeticarts.com/initiallicensing/licinanotherstate.aspx . If reciprocity is not offered, then you have to submit a certification of training and licensure. Teacher's licenses cannot be obtained without first holding a current license for practice in the corresponding discipline in North Carolina.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
North Dakota	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 160 hours of training.	Provide proof that the applicant is licensed as a cosmetologist and instructor in another jurisdiction and that the applicant's license is in good standing. Demonstrate that either: the applicant provides satisfactory proof of completing the course curriculum hours (160 hours) required by the board and proof of successfully passing the theoretical and practical examinations substantially similar to those required in this state; or, the other jurisdiction's licensure requirements at the time the applicant was licensed were substantially equal to those in North Dakota. Must pass an examination on North Dakota laws, rules, and regulations.
Ohio	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	Persons holding a valid license to teach the theory and practice of cosmetology in other states may obtain an Ohio license to teach cosmetology if all of the conditions are met: The individual holds an active instructor license in cosmetology. The requirements to obtain the license in the jurisdiction of origin extends similar reciprocity opportunities to individuals licensed in Ohio. At the time the license was obtained in the other licensing jurisdiction, the requirements in this state for obtaining the license the applicant seeks were substantially equal to the requirements of that licensing jurisdiction (1,000 hours).
Oklahoma	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training or 300 hours and two years of experience.	Must hold a current Oklahoma cosmetology license; complete 1,000 hours of study, or 300 hours if two years of recent licensed experience is verified (or equivalent number of credit hours); and pass a written and practical exam.
Oregon	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	To obtain an Oregon instructor license, 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 (1,000 hours).
Pennsylvania	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 500 hours of training or has reciprocity.	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 two years of working experience from the original licensure date. Must possess a current cosmetologist license and have completed a minimum of 500 hours of instruction in a cosmetology teacher curriculum provided by a licensed school of cosmetology. If the applicant does not meet the requirements for reciprocity, the Pennsylvania examination (theory and practical) must be successfully completed. The state board of cosmetology has a reciprocal agreement with every state except Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Utah.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Rhode Island	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Has held a hairdresser license, issued under the laws of this state or another state, for at least three (3) years preceding the date of application for an instructor's license, and has satisfactorily completed three hundred hours of instruction in hairdressing teacher training approved by the department. Passed an examination approved by the department.
South Carolina	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Upon application and payment of the required fee, a license to teach cosmetology may be issued by the board to any person who is currently licensed, and in good standing, as an instructor in a state that has a nationally endorsed examination; or who is a licensed cosmetologist who has practiced for at least two years in any other state and submits proof, satisfactory to the board, of having completed instructor training (750 hours) which is substantially equivalent to requirements of this state.
South Dakota	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 1,000 hours of training.	Any person may qualify and be licensed by the state as an instructor for cosmetology upon application made to the state. The application shall be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant: possesses the required 1,000 hours; currently holds a valid cosmetologist license; has complied with any instructor education as prescribed (1,000 hours) or has at least one year of teaching experience as a licensed instructor from another state in cosmetology; and has passed an examination prescribed by the state. However, the applicant may receive the license conditionally, dependent on completing instructor education and passing the examination as prescribed by the commission.
Tennessee	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Applicants applying for instructor reciprocity must provide proof of passing a state board approved course of at least 300 hours for instructors, and proof of passing an instructor theory and practical exam. A state theory and hands-on practical exam are required to be eligible for reciprocity in Tennessee. If an individual did not take either of these exams in the state where they currently hold an active license, then they may be required to take one or both. Additional hours may also be required to substantially meet Tennessee licensure requirements.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY 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). Must submit with an application, a copy of the current out-of-state cosmetology license, and a letter of certification from the out-of-state licensing agency.
Utah	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 400 hours of training and work experience.	Provide satisfactory documentation of completion of: an instructor training program conducted by a licensed or recognized school and with a minimum of 400 hours or the equivalent number of credit hours; on-the-job instructor training conducted by a licensed instructor at a licensed or recognized school with a minimum of 400 hours or the equivalent number of credit hours; or a minimum of 3,000 hours of experience as a cosmetologist/barber; and meet the examination requirement established by rule.
Vermont	Must be licensed in a state with similar requirements.	Have three (3) full-time years of experience or possess sufficient teacher education and experience to permit the board to determine that the instructor applicant's background is equal to those of a practitioner with three years of experience; be licensed in the profession under these rules which they teach; have passed an instructor's examination approved by the board; and take a minimum of 24 hours of professional education approved by the board per licensing period.
Virginia	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Hold a cosmetology license; have taken a post-secondary course in teaching techniques or board-approved instructor training course; and have taken the cosmetology instruction exam.
Washington	Accepts the training provided in other states.	To get a cosmetology instructor license in Washington state, an individual must have a current instructor license in good standing in another state and a current cosmetology license in Washington. The applicant must provide proof of passing the state-approved written and performance examinations.
West Virginia	Accepts the training provided in other states.	An applicant from another state seeking certification as an instructor is eligible for certification by reciprocity if the applicant: has acquired training in another state equal to the requirements established in this rule; has passed an NIC instructor exam; has passed a West Virginia state law exam with a score of at least 80%; and the state in which the applicant is certified extends the same privilege to certified instructors from West Virginia. The applicant must also have successfully passed a teaching techniques course at a post-secondary education level; have graduated from a recognized school of cosmetology; and have applied to the board with the appropriate fees.

STATE	ACCEPTS CURRICULUM	RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS
Wisconsin	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Wisconsin does not license instructors. In order to teach in Wisconsin, an individual must be licensed as a cosmetologist in Wisconsin. In order to transfer a cosmetology license, an individual must be currently licensed in another state.
Wyoming	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 500 hours of training.	Must have graduated from an instructor program with equal or greater hour requirements (500 hours), or have equal or greater study in teaching from outside a cosmetology school, or a combination of training and work history that is equal or greater than Wyoming. Must have passed a board-administered theory and practical examination.