

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 |
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| 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. |

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| 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. |

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| 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 |

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| 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. |

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| 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. |