

List of State Reciprocity Requirements — Nail Technician

In the manicuring profession, each state establishes licensure requirements for being able to practice in their state. Programs of study in manicuring can range anywhere from 100 clock hours to 600 clock hours, and as such, states develop specific requirements for individuals who graduated from manicuring school in another state to be able 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 manicuring 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 requirements for licensure and practice. In the field of manicuring, each state board reviews the number of clock hours you attended in your home state, the subject areas, and the 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 of manicuring 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 (250 hours).	Verification of training, examination, and licensure from the state board where the individual is currently licensed as a manicurist is required. An out-of-state license must be current when an Alaska license is issued. The individual must have passed a state written examination in another state where he or she is currently licensed. If the individual did not pass a written examination, it will be necessary to do so in Alaska before receiving a license. An individual who has less than 250 hours of training will be required to attend school to obtain the additional hours required. Work experience does not count toward licensure.
Arizona	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	The applicant must provide a statement regarding whether or not the applicant's license has been suspended or revoked, and he/she must provide proof of training hours and graduation. If no license was obtained, the applicant may still qualify through meeting education and examination requirements.
Arkansas	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	A copy of the certification of licensure must be sent to the cosmetology board. The applicant must provide certification of his/her exam record, which must show the applicant has passed a written and practical national or department-approved examination; provide proof of training; take a state law exam; and pay a fee.

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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.
Colorado	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (600 hours).	The state will issue a license by endorsement to practice manicuring 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. In order to qualify for licensure by endorsement, an individual must have passed a practical and/or written examination. If the applicant only passed one examination, he/she will be referred to PSI for completion of the other examination.
Connecticut	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state to request licensure.	As of January 1, 2021, a person must provide a copy of a current license in good standing to practice as a nail technician and a form documenting that the applicant has two years of experience as a licensed nail technician in another state. If the state did not have a licensing program at the time the experience occurred, please provide a statement indicating the same.
Delaware	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (300 hours).	Must be licensed in a state with equal or greater requirements (300 hours). Notarization and testing are not required. For applicants whose home state training and testing requirements are not equivalent to those of DE, the applicant's employer will need to provide a notarized statement verifying the applicant's license and work experience for at least 5 years.
District of Columbia	The district allows anyone who completed a program and licensure in another state to request licensure by reciprocity.	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; have passed an examination acceptable to the board; have an active certification from a recognized national certifying organization; and has not been disciplined or otherwise disqualified by the national certifying organization relied upon for the application for licensure by endorsement.

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Florida	Hold an active license in another state with equal or greater requirements (240).	Hold an active license in another state with equal or greater requirements (240 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 (525 hours).	The state will accept licensees from other states with similar licensure requirements (525 hours) who apply; pay a fee; and have no disciplinary action against their license. 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 (350 hours).	Must show proof of similar/equivalent testing and education requirements (350 hours) to those of Hawaii, and may be required to take the written and practical state board exam.
Idaho	Must be licensed in a state that has similar requirements (400 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 (400 hours). Must provide proof of having taken and passed a practical and written exam.
Illinois	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 350 hours of training.	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 Illinois (350 hours). Must have proof of having taken and passed a practical and written exam.
Indiana	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 450 hours of training.	Current license must meet the same standards that Indiana requires, which is a minimum of 450 hours of training. If not, one of the following would also qualify: licensed for less than 20 years; one (1) year of licensed experience is equal to one hundred (100) hours of education to an applicant who has completed a minimum of 300 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 325 hours of training.	Official transcript or diploma that meets the requirements of Iowa Administrative Code (325 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 the 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 (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) exam before he/she can be licensed in the state of Iowa.
Kansas	The state allows anyone who completed a program in another state that has reciprocity to request licensure.	Hold a current license in good standing; pass the Kansas state written exam; and board may require applicant to take a practical exam, based on experience.

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Kentucky	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 450 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 (450 hours), then the applicant will apply as an out-of-state exam applicant. If the applicant does not have enough hours, he/she 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.	A person currently holding a license in manicuring may be licensed; if the applicant took the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) exam, he/she only needs to take the state law test. If the applicant did not take the NIC exam, he/she would be required to take the NIC exam and the state law test.
Maine	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 200 hours of training	Licensure by endorsement is available if the individual's home state has similar training hour requirements (200 hours) and board exams. An individual may be required to take Maine's exam if his or her state doesn't have similar licensing requirements.
Maryland	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 250 hours of training.	The applicant must possess a current license in another state and provide certification that the license is in good standing and was obtained under the same standards and testing as required in Maryland (250 hours).
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 the 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 350 hours of training.	Must hold a current license (current state must have equal or greater license requirements); have passed board-approved theory and practice-based exam; and pass the Minnesota written operator examination. If an individual doesn't meet the requirements, he/she must have held an active license for at least 3 years and passed the board-approved theory and practice-based exam or Minnesota written operator examination.
Mississippi	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Applicants must provide a certification of hours and/or license from the state licensing agency where the hours were obtained. All out-of-state hours must be certified by the state board or official licensing agency of the state where the hours were obtained. Only hours certified by the state licensing agency will be accepted. All applicants licensed less than three (3) years will be required to complete the theory and practical examination.

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Missouri	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 400 hours of training.	Hold a current license in a state with substantially similar or superior requirements (400 hours). If the individual has less hours than Missouri, he/she will need to take additional training. NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) 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) manicuring exam.
Nebraska	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Must hold a current license in another jurisdiction; have completed at least 300 hours of nail technology studies; take the Nebraska written exam if a written exam wasn't required by current jurisdiction; and have practiced nail technology for at least 12 months.
Nevada	Accepts the training provided in other states except Florida, and only accepts the Advance Manicurist License in Alaska.	In order to be eligible for reciprocity in the state of Nevada, your 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	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Must have an equivalent or higher number of training hours from home state (300 hours) and have passed a written and practical national exam. If the individual does not have enough training hours, he/she may have to take additional training.
New Jersey	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Applicants who obtained training in another state must demonstrate with certification from the licensing authority in the home state that the training is substantially equivalent to the training offered in New Jersey (300 hours), 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 350 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 (350 hours). If lacking hours, the 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 250 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 (250 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.

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North Carolina	Accepts the training provided in other states except Florida, and only accepts the Advance Manicurist License in 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.
North Dakota	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Hold a current license as a manicurist from another state and provide proof of training hours received in a school. May be required to take the state exam for sanitary practices and the state law.
Ohio	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 200 hours of training.	Any person who holds a current license as a manicurist in another state whose requirements for licensure are substantially equivalent (200 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 two hundred hours in total. Must take and pass Ohio's practical and theoretical examination.
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 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. If an individual does not meet the education requirements or work requirements, the licensee may be required to take additional training hours.
Oregon	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 350 hours of training.	To obtain an Oregon practitioner certification in manicuring 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 (350 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 two (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. 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.
Rhode Island	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Rhode Island does not offer reciprocity; it offers licensure by endorsement. The applicant must meet Rhode Island requirements (300 hours). If the licensee does not meet criteria, he or she must get additional training hours at school and take the state exam.

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South Carolina	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Applicant must hold a current license 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 400 hours of training.	Applicant must hold a current license in good standing in another state; must take and pass the South Dakota state laws and rules exam; and must have taken a course of at least 400 hours of training in another state. If the applicant does not meet the 400 education hours, work hours may be added, with a maximum of 200 hours allowed. He/she must take the South Dakota written laws and rules test; take the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) theory exam; and take the NIC hands-on practical exam.
Tennessee	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 600 hours of training.	Proof of meeting Tennessee's minimum required training hours (600 hours) and/or proof of a 5-year work history. If the 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 600 hours of training.	License holders from other states may be eligible for a Texas license if their state has education and examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to Texas (600 hours).
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 400 hours of training.	Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (400 hours), and pass a state law exam.
Virginia	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 150 hours of training.	Hold a license in a state whose requirements are equal or superior (150 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	Accepts the training provided in other states.	Submit a current license from another state, and take and pass the West Virginia state law exam.
Wisconsin	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 300 hours of training.	Upon application and payment of the fee, the department may grant a license to practice manicuring to an applicant who is licensed in another state to perform services that are substantially the same as those performed by a licensed manicurist 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 the license, and is not a party to a proceeding before the licensing agency.

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Wyoming	Must be licensed in a state that requires at least 400 hours of training.	Must have a current license from another state; have graduated from a licensed manicuring school; have taken a written and practical exam given by the board or testing company; and meet or exceed the 400-hour requirements to receive a Wyoming license. If the individual does not have 400 hours of training, one year of work experience can lower the training hour requirement.