

State Board of Cosmetology
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PENNSYLVANIA LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

NAIL TECHNICIAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 hours in a licensed cosmetology school • Hours to be earned in not less than one month • 10th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam)
ESTHETICIAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours in a licensed cosmetology school • 10th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam)
COSMETOLOGIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1250 hours in a licensed cosmetology school (1000 hours prior to 1964), OR 2000 hours in an approved apprentice program. • Hours to be earned in not less than 8 months (9 months prior to July 1, 1984) • 10th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam) • Qualified to perform any of the functions of a cosmetologist, esthetician, natural hair braider or nail technician without additional licensure.
NATURAL HAIR BRAIDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours in a licensed cosmetology school • 10th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam)
LIMITED LICENSE TEACHER: NAIL TECHNOLOGY, ESTHETICS AND NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To qualify for examination, must possess a current PA limited cosmetology license (Nail Technician, Esthetician or Natural Hair Braider) • 500 additional hours in a teacher curriculum from a licensed cosmetology school • 12th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam)
COSMETOLOGY TEACHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To qualify for examination, must possess a current PA cosmetologist license • 500 additional hours in a teacher curriculum of a licensed cosmetology school • 12th grade education or equivalent • State Board examination (consists of theory and practical examination prior to 11/25/14; after this date the exam consists of a theory only exam) • Qualified to perform any of the functions of a teacher, manager, cosmetologist, esthetician, natural hair braider, or nail technician without additional licensure.

A COSMETOLOGY MANAGER'S LICENSE was issued by the Pennsylvania Cosmetology Board until June 29, 2002, at which time it was eliminated under Act 98 of 2002. While the manager's classification has been re-titled to "cosmetologist", all licensees with a CM prefix on their license qualified for that license by meeting the following requirements:

- Possessed a current cosmetologist license
- Earned 300 additional hours in a manager curriculum at a licensed cosmetology school OR 18 months working experience as a licensed cosmetologist)
- Completed the manager's state board examination (consisted of theory only)

OVER →

The State Board of Cosmetology cannot supply any information beyond that provided on the certification of licensure. It is not possible for the certification of licensure to reflect the name of the cosmetology school attended, dates of attendance, total number of hours earned beyond those required by law, or test scores. Prior to August 1998, Board records are not available to verify whether a cosmetologist earned their hours through a licensed school or through an approved apprentice program. Certification of licensure for licensees will only reflect if hours were earned via the apprentice program. If additional information is required beyond the data provided on the certification of licensure, it is incumbent upon the licensee to provide the additional documentation.

Pennsylvania's examinations (theory and practical) are developed, administered and scored by a professional testing organization for development, administration and scoring of the theory and practical licensing examinations. Examinations are developed utilizing subject matter experts (SME's). As of June 1997 the testing company was LGR. As of September 1999 the testing company was Experior Assessments which later became Thomson Prometric. As of March 2006 the testing company was Professional Credential Services. As of July 2011, the testing company is Pearson VUE.

**PENNSYLVANIA NO LONGER PARTICIPATED IN THE NIC NATIONAL EXAM AS OF JUNE 1997
PENNSYLVANIA RESUMED PARTICIPATING IN THE NIC EXAM
BETWEEN MARCH 2006 AND JULY 2011
PENNSYLVANIA DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE NIC EXAM AS OF JULY 2011**

As of November 25, 2014 Pennsylvania no longer requires a practical examination for licensure.

Reciprocity (licensure without examination) can be granted to individuals licensed in those states with which Pennsylvania has an understanding of 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.