

## **Hairstylist License Questions and Answers**

Senate Bill 803 required the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board) to create a 600-hour program for a new hairstylist license type. The Board has been working with the Office of Professional Examination Services and subject matter experts to create the hairstylist exam. The hairstylist exam will be offered starting July 1, 2023. If you are interested in obtaining a hairstylist license, please review the following questions and answers.

### **PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

#### **1. What is the new hairstylist license?**

The new hairstylist license will allow an individual to perform hairstyling, arranging, blow drying, cleansing, curling, cutting, dressing, extending, shampooing, waving, or nonchemically straightening the hair of any person using both electrical and nonelectrical devices.

#### **2. What is required to receive a hairstylist license?**

The hairstylist license will require completion of a 600-hour hairstyling program that has been approved by the Board and the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Applicants must also pay the application fee, be at least 17 years of age, completed the 10th grade in the public schools of this state or its equivalent, and not be subject to denial pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 480. Upon passing the written examination, a hairstylist license will be issued to you.

For information on approved schools, please visit:

[https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/approved\\_schools.shtml](https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/approved_schools.shtml).

#### **3. Should I be a hairstylist or cosmetologist?**

As mentioned above, a hairstylist may only provide certain hair services. If you are interested in performing chemical hair services such as permanent waving, relaxing, tinting, coloring, or dyeing, you need a cosmetologist license. Cosmetologists are also licensed to provide skin and nail care, including but not limited to waxing, facials, eyelash extensions, tinting and perming of eyelashes, manicures, and pedicures. Think about the types of services you would be interested in offering to decide which license type is best for you.

#### **4. If I have a hairstylist license and receive training or certification in additional cosmetology services, can I provide cosmetology services?**

No. The hairstylist license only allows you to provide hairstyling services, regardless of whether you receive additional training. For example, if you are a hairstylist and take a class on eyelash extensions, you still cannot provide eyelash extensions. You would need to be licensed as a cosmetologist (or esthetician).

## **5. Can I be a Hairstylist apprentice?**

No, the apprenticeship program is only for barbering, cosmetology, and electrology.

## **EXAMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

### **1. What is the application fee?**

Currently, the hairstylist application and examination fee is \$50. However, Senate Bill 817 proposes to amend Business and Professions code section 7423 to set the hairstylist application and examination fee to be the actual cost to the board for developing, purchasing, grading, and administering the examination and to set the initial license fee to not exceed \$50. This amendment would make the hairstylist fees consistent with the other license types.

### **2. Where will I take my written exam?**

Candidates will be able to schedule their examination at one of the fifteen PSI locations throughout California. Once the Board approves an application, candidates will receive a notice on how to schedule their written exam.

## **OUT-OF-STATE LICENSURE**

### **1. If I am licensed as a Hairstylist in another state, can I transfer that license to California?**

If you are licensed as a hairstylist in another state, you can use that license to obtain a license in California in the same practice. You would need to submit an Application for Licensure by Endorsement (Reciprocity) and submit the fee. You would also need to request a Certification of Licensure from the state you are licensed in to be sent directly to the Board.

### **2. If I completed a hairstylist program in another state but did not receive a license, how can I become licensed in California?**

If possible, you may want to obtain the license in the state in which you completed the hairstylist program, and then submit an Application for Licensure by Endorsement, as explained above. Otherwise, the Board will determine your eligibility to take the California exam. You will need to submit both an Initial Exam Application and an Out of State Applicant School Training Form B by mail (at the same time). Form B must be completed by the school you attended. You must also sign and date the completed Form B. The Board will review your application and Form B to determine if you have enough hours to qualify for the exam or if you will need to complete additional school hours. The Board will send you a deficiency letter if you need to complete additional hours. You may complete the additional hours in the state you are currently residing or at a Board approved California school. A Proof of Training form from the Board approved California school or a second Form B must be submitted to the California Board once the additional hours are completed. After your application is approved, you will receive the PSI handbook to schedule the written exam at a time or location of your choice. If you pass the exam, you will be issued a license that day.

## **SCHOOL OWNERS/ADMINISTRATORS**

### **1. How can my school offer the Hairstylist program?**

Schools that would like to offer the Hairstylist program must have their curriculum approved by both the Board and the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Schools must submit an Application to Add a Course and a copy of the full curriculum (including a full hour breakdown, grading method, graduation method, teaching method). Listed below are the links to the application and the minimum requirements that your curriculum must include.

[https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/app\\_to\\_add\\_course\\_to\\_school.pdf](https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/app_to_add_course_to_school.pdf)

[https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/requirements\\_hairstyling.pdf](https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/requirements_hairstyling.pdf)

Please email your application and curriculum to [bbc.schools@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbc.schools@dca.ca.gov).