



Registered Cosmetologist License Requirements and Application Process Overview

*Before calling in to the Board Office – You may check your application status online at:
<https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/SSO/Login/LoginPage>.*

Licensure by Endorsement Requirements:

A person is qualified to receive a cosmetologist license by endorsement when the following requirements are met:

1. Meet one of the following requirements:
 - Actively licensed in another state **and** passed the [National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology \(NIC\)](#) theory and practical examination, **or**
 - Actively licensed, for at least two (2) years, in another state **and** completed four (4) hours of [Board-approved Continuing Education](#).

Licensure by Examination Requirements:

A person is qualified to receive a cosmetologist license by examination when the following requirements are met:

1. Be at least 16 years of age or older
2. Have completed a 10th grade education or equivalent as establish by the U.S. public school system.
3. Have completed **one** of the following:
 - 1,500 hours completed from a SC Board approved cosmetology school, or
 - 1,540 hours completed from a Board approved SC High School Cosmetology Program, or
 - Actively licensed in another state, less than two (2) years, or
 - Actively licensed as a S.C. Master Hair Care Specialist (MHCS) with the following work and education experience:
 - i. Five (5) years work experience as MHCS, or
 - ii. Four (4) years work experience and 100 hours of Board approved cosmetology school training, or
 - iii. Three (3) years work experience and 200 hours of Board approved cosmetology school training, or
 - iv. Work experience less than three (3) years and 350 hours of Board approved cosmetology school training
4. Successfully pass the [National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology \(NIC\)](#) theory and practical examination

Important Note:

For Cosmetology School applicants: A student may examine early if a student has completed at least 1,350-hours and submission of a Training Affidavit by the school attesting to hours completed. Once remaining hours are completed, the school must submit an Affidavit of Completion in order for the student to obtain a license.

For High School Cosmetology applicants: Students must complete the required 1,540 hours before graduation. Failure to complete hours will result in the applicant receiving credit for the hours pertaining to cosmetology education ONLY. Applicants that do not complete the high school program will be required to complete the remaining hours not credited to them.

Application Process:

Your application is good for one (1) year from the date of receipt. If all required information is not received within this one (1) year period; you must begin the application process from the beginning. This includes, but is not limited to, the application fee, transcripts, license verifications, etc.

1. **Application** – In addition to a completed application, the following must also be sent:

- **Application Fee:** \$45 application fee made out to SC Board of Cosmetology. (Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable) *A returned check fee of up to \$30, or an amount specified by law, may be assessed on all returned funds.*
- **Identification:**
 - Copy of your valid Driver's License, State Issued ID, or Passport
 - Copy of signed Social Security Card
- **Education:** Copy of a certificate of completion, diploma, or transcript showing proof of completion of at least 10th grade education. Non-US education will need to be evaluated. It is the responsibility of the applicant to get transcripts evaluated. There are two national association of credential evaluation services used by the US government: [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services](#) and [Association of International Credentials Evaluators](#).
- **Cosmetology Education:** Copy of an Affidavit of Completion, diploma, or transcript from a Board-approved cosmetology school showing total hours completed.
- **Photograph (2x2):** Must be a passport style 2x2 photo on a white background. Selfies will not be accepted.
- **Notarized Verification of Lawful Presence**
- **Immigration Documentation:** Copy of current immigration documents listed on page 2 of the Notarized Verification of Lawful Presence
- **Legal documentation of name change** (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.)

- **Personal History Questions:** For any “Yes” answers in the Personal History Information, a written explanation must be provided. Additional information may be requested by the Commission Office or an appearance before the Commission may be necessary.
 - **Background Check:** If you have been convicted, pled guilty, or nolo contendere to a felony, you will need to submit a statewide criminal background check from the state’s law enforcement agency where the crime took place. South Carolina residents must use www.sled.sc.gov. Reports must not be older than thirty (30) days from the date of application.
2. **Documents should be sent directly to the Board from the issuing agency/institution.**
- **Verification of Licensure:** Contact each state jurisdiction you are currently or have previously been licensed with and have the certificate of licensure sent directly to the Board office via email at boardinfo@llr.sc.gov or mail.
3. **Examination:** Once a completed application has been received and approved, applicants will be authorized to take the examination, if applicable. The examination is administered by PSI Testing Service. Applicants will not be authorized to take the exam until a complete application is on file.

Applicants will receive notification from PSI when they are authorized to register for the examination. Applicants are responsible for registering and scheduling with PSI. The examination registration fee is to be paid directly to PSI upon registration.

Exam eligible applicants are encouraged to review the Board’s Examination page at <https://llr.sc.gov/cosmo/examins.aspx>.

PSI will send examination score reports directly to the Board office. Please do not send your score report to the Board office.

4. **Licensure:** Upon receipt of passed examination from PSI or approval of endorsement application, the Board will issue the license. Licensees may validate license status on the Licensee Lookup Systems,
<https://verify.llronline.com/LicLookup/Cosmo/Cosmo.aspx?div=23>.