



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COSMETOLOGY EXAMINATIONS



CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

This *Candidate Information Bulletin* ("CIB") is intended for your use in preparing for and understanding the processes and procedures for applying for licensure and scheduling to test. The South Carolina Board for Cosmetology (the "Board") is responsible for licensing and regulating the profession of cosmetology in the State of South Carolina. The Board has contracted with Professional Credential Services ("PCS") to provide administrative examination services. The Board, through PCS, will exclusively use the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology ("NIC") examinations. PCS first requires the submission of an Examination & License Application ("Application"). This is required to determine your eligibility for testing. Any questions regarding your application or eligibility should be directed to PCS.

(U.S. Postal Service)

Professional Credential Services
South Carolina Cosmetology Coordinator
P.O. Box 198768
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8689
Toll-free: (888) 822-3272
E-mail: sccos@pcshq.com

(Courier Delivery)

Professional Credential Services
South Carolina Cosmetology Coordinator
150 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 800
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Fax: (615) 846-0153
Web site: www.pcshq.com

South Carolina Department of Labor,
Licensing, and Regulation
P.O. Box 11329
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Phone: (803) 896-4494
Fax: (803) 896-4484
Web site: www.lhr.state.sc.us/POL/cosmetology

Eligibility Requirements: A candidate who wishes to obtain a cosmetology license must pass both a **theory** and a **practical** examination. To qualify to take these examinations, a candidate **must**:

1. Be at least 16 years old;
2. Have a 10th grade education or equivalent;
3. Have successfully completed a **1,500**-hour course of instruction in a board-approved school of cosmetology; or
4. Be a registered master hair care specialist for a period of five years.

Required Documentation: Must submit with the examination application:

1. **Proof of Identification (two forms):** Copy of a driver's license, birth certificate, passport or social security card. One form of identification must include a photo (driver's license or passport).
2. **Proof of Passing 10th Grade:** Copy of a high school transcript, diploma, or GED. If your name on your high school transcript, GED, or diploma differs from your name on the examination application, you **must** provide legal documentation (marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).
3. **Cosmetology Training Affidavit:** All areas of the form must be completed. This form can be downloaded online at www.pcshq.com.
4. **Affidavit of Eligibility:** All areas of the form must be completed. This form can be downloaded online at www.pcshq.com.

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 2010: A Health Form (TB test/Chest X-Ray) is no longer required in order for a candidate to be eligible to test.

Crossover Eligibility Requirements:

Anyone who possesses a current **Master Hair Care** license for at least **two years** is required to only take the practical examination.

Foreign Credentials:

The State of South Carolina requires that all foreign credentials must be evaluated through one of the following services before submitting documentation to PCS.

1. Education Credential Evaluators (414) 289-3400 (www.ece.org)
2. International Consultants of Delaware (215) 222-8454 (www.icdel.com)
3. International Service Center (216) 781-4560 (www.internationalservicescenter.org)

Endorsement: (Out-of-State Candidate Seeking a License in the State of South Carolina.)

A person currently licensed or certified to practice in another state, territorial possession of the US or the District of Columbia, whose license is in good standing, may qualify for licensure by endorsement if the records submitted verify that the education and examination requirements for licensure or certification in the other jurisdiction were, at the time completed, equal to or greater than existing requirements in South Carolina and if the reciprocal jurisdiction grants the same privileges to South Carolina licensees. Please read Section 35-13 of South Carolina's Statutes and Regulations for additional information. Applicants must contact the board at (803) 896-4494.

Reinstatement:

1. Anyone whose license expired for up to four (4) years may be reinstated if the applicant pays the reinstatement fee and submits proof to the board of completion of continuing education requirements for renewal. Please contact the board at (803) 896-4494.
2. Anyone whose license expired after four (4) years must complete a first-time application and take both the theory and practical examinations.

How to Apply: Complete all areas on the examination application and attach required documentation.

Specifically:

1. Fees should be submitted with the examination application and made payable to PCS in the form of a Certified Check, Money order or credit card. **Personal checks are not accepted.**
2. If the name on the first page of the examination application differs from any supporting eligibility documentation that is submitted to PCS, you **must** provide legal documentation connecting the former name to the current name (marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).
3. **Special Accommodations:** If you need special accommodations under the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, you must make the request at the time you submit your application to PCS, along with supporting medical documentation. This form can be downloaded online at www.pcshq.com.
4. Examination application must be received no later than 15 business days prior to the date you wish to take a practical examination.

Fees: Fees will be paid to PCS and submitted with your examination application. First-time fees do include LLR fees. **NOTE: REINSTATEMENT CANDIDATES MUST PAY FIRST-TIME FEES AS INDICATED BELOW.** Fees are as follows:

First-Time Practical: \$100

First-Time Theory: \$110

First-Time Theory and Practical: \$165

Re-Examination Practical: \$55

Re-Examination Theory: \$65

Re-Examination Practical and Theory: \$120

Approval Process: If approved, you will receive notification from PCS.

You will receive an **Admission Notice** for the practical examination you are scheduled for approximately 10 days prior to the actual practical test date at the location you select. If you do not receive your Admission Notice via mail on the Monday prior to the approved examination date, please call PCS for further instructions. Any questions regarding scheduling form the practical examination must be directed to PCS. Do **not** call the Board office.

You will receive an **Authorization to Test (ATT)** for the theory examination as soon as you have been approved to test. If you do not receive your ATT via mail within 7 days, please call PCS to verify your mailing address is correct.

If you are **not** approved because of an incomplete application, discrepancies, missing documentation, including signatures, you will be contacted by PCS and your application will be pending until you make the necessary and requested corrections. If you mail any documentation separate and apart from the application, please make reference to this on your information.

YOUR APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE ENTIRE PACKET IS COMPLETE.

How To Schedule For and Take the Theory Examination: Upon receipt of your ATT, you may request to take the theory examination by contacting PSI Testing Center at www.psiexams.com or at 800-733-9267. An ATT **cannot be faxed** to you or to the PSI site.

Internet Scheduling

For the fastest and most convenient test scheduling process, PSI recommends that candidates register for their examinations using the Internet. Candidates register online by accessing PSI's registration website at www.psiexams.com. Internet registration is available 24 hours a day. In order to register by Internet, complete the steps below:

Log onto PSI's website. Complete the associated registration form online and submit your information to PSI via the internet.

Upon completion of the online registration form, you will be given the available examination dates and locations for scheduling your examination. Select your desired testing date and location.

Telephone Scheduling

The second fastest method of scheduling is via the telephone with PSI's Interactive Voice Response system (IVR) during non-business hours, or through live registrars during business hours.

Call 800-733-9267, 24 hours a day and register using the Automated Registration System. Otherwise, PSI registrars are available Monday through Friday, between 7:30am and 8:00pm and Saturday, between 11:00am and 5:00pm, Eastern Time, to schedule your appointment for the examination.

Theory examinations are offered on a daily basis using a computer-based testing platform. Since PSI tests for many different professions, please allow three business days between the time you call to schedule your examination and the time you wish to sit for the examination. A "seat" may not be available at the time you wish to test if there is not sufficient lead-time in placing your scheduling call. There are several PSI Testing Centers throughout South Carolina, however, you can examine at any PSI test center located throughout the United States. You may access test center information at www.psiexams.com. Maps and test center hours are available from this web site as well.

You will take your theory examination on a personal computer. You select answers either by using a mouse or the keyboard. Please visit www.psiexams.com for additional information on computer-based testing. If you encounter any problems with the computer, you should notify the test administrator. You will be given 90 minutes to complete the entire examination. Examination questions are multiple-choice with one correct answer and three incorrect responses. There is no penalty for guessing. You must attain a score of **75** or higher to achieve a passing score on the theory examination. PSI personnel have no knowledge of, are not responsible for, and cannot answer questions about the content of the examinations, references, passing scores, etc.

Theory and Practical Examination Admission Requirements:

You must register for your examination with your **LEGAL** first and last name as it appears on your government issued identification. All required identification below must match the first and last name under which you registered. Candidates are required to bring **a recent 2"x2" passport type photo** and **two (2) forms of valid (non-expired) identification** to the test site. One of the identifications presented must be Government issued identification with photograph and signature. Photocopies of identification will **NOT** be accepted. Candidates must present two forms of ID: One Primary and One Secondary.

PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION – Choose One

- State issued driver's license
- State issued identification card
- US Government issued Passport
- US Government issued Military Identification Card
- US Government issued Alien Registration Card

SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION – Choose One

- Credit card (must be signed)
- Social Security Card
- US issued Birth Certificate

*NOTE: Student ID and employment ID are **NOT** acceptable forms of identification.

Theory and Practical Examination Admission Requirements (continued):

Candidates must register with the full legal name as it appears on their government issued identification. The name on the identification must be the same as the name used to register for the examination. If the candidate fails to bring proper identification or the candidate names do not match, the candidates will not be allowed to test and their examination fee will not be refunded.

It is your responsibility to arrive at the test center on time. Candidates will not be permitted into the examination room after your scheduled testing time. It is strongly suggested that you visit the site before the day of the examination in order to become familiar with the route and the travel time. Candidates are not permitted to bring anyone into the examination room. Candidates are not permitted to talk to one another once inside the examination room.

General Policies and Procedures for Theory and Practical Examinations:

Security Policies: Suspected security breaches during either the theory or practical test administrations, such as an act of impersonation, creating a disturbance, giving or receiving unauthorized information or aiding other candidates, attempting to remove test information by any means, possessing prohibited materials or sharing supplies may be sufficient cause to dismiss you from the examination site or to invalidate or cancel your scores. Suspected breaches may be identified by observation or suspicion by the test center staff, or may be evidenced by subsequent statistical analysis of examination materials. PCS reserves the right to investigate each incident of misconduct and will report such incidents directly to the Board. The Board will make all final decisions on examination score invalidations or cancellations. **No visitors, guests or children are allowed in the test center.**

Copyrighted Examination Questions: All test questions are the express copyrighted property of NIC. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these test questions by any means, in whole or in part. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties, including prison incarceration and/or fined up to \$250,000 for criminal violations.

Prohibited Items: No food, beverages, purses, notebooks, magazines, backpacks, briefcases, hats, caps, reference books or electronic devices such as cameras, computers or computerized devices, walkmans, ipods, radios, recording devices, portable fax machines, cellular telephones, calculator watches, reproduction equipment, beepers or pagers are permitted in the examination room. If any of the aforementioned items are found in a candidate's possession, the Test Center Administrator will collect the item until the end of the examination and provide an incident report of the incident to the Board and PCS. Smoking or the use of tobacco is strictly prohibited in the examination room. PCS is not responsible for **any** personal items brought into the examination site.

Environmental Distracters: Although every attempt is made to provide a quiet and comfortable test environment, noise and room temperature may be an unforeseen and unavoidable distracter. It is suggested that you wear the type of clothing that would allow you to adapt to a cooler or warmer climate at the testing site.

Emergency Policy: In the event of inclement weather or similar emergency, a scheduled examination may be canceled or delayed. However, this decision is made only in rare instances and at the discretion of PCS and/or PSI. If a test center is open for testing, and you choose not to appear for your scheduled examination, your fee will be forfeited. You will have to reschedule your appointment and resubmit the appropriate fee to PCS. If you have reason to question whether or not a center will be closed due to an emergency, please call PCS to make inquiries regarding the practical examination and PSI for inquiries regarding the theory examination.

Refunds and Rescheduling Policies: You may reschedule for the theory examination without losing your fee **if** you contact PSI within three working days **prior** to your scheduled examination date. If you reschedule **after** the three-day window, you will forfeit your fee. **NOTE:** A voicemail message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the internet, automated telephone system or call PSI and speak to a Customer Service Representative. Rescheduling is **not** permitted for the practical examination unless you are hospitalized or are involved in a traffic accident on the way to the test center that prevents you from arriving on time. Refunds are **not** issued nor are fees transferable for either the theory or practical examinations. Documentation of the above-noted exceptions is required.

Score Information: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010: The minimum score to pass either the theory or practical examination is 75.

When you complete the theory examination, the computer will print out an unofficial "Pass" or "Fail" Score Report. For failing candidates, this will include a strength and weakness report by major content areas. If your score report does not print out because of technical problems, a score report will be provided to you within 24 hours after you test.

The official pass or fail results of the theory and practical examination will be mailed to you by first-class mail 10 business days after you take the examination. Failing candidates will receive a strength and weakness report, as well as information on how to retest.

Confidentiality: Test results are confidential and are not provided over the telephone.

Passing Candidates: Pursuant to South Carolina Law, you must successfully pass the theory and practical examination within one calendar year of your initial application date or you must begin the application process over as a first-time candidate. When you have passed the theory, and the practical examinations, PCS will notify the Board electronically and mail your file to the Board as well. Please allow **30** days for the Board to process your license. Please be patient. Do not call the Board offices or PCS inquiring about your license until this time period has passed. You may use your "**official**" Pass Score Report (**Notice of Completion**) to practice until you receive your license via mail from the Board. Please be sure to notify PCS of any mailing address changes.

Failing Candidates: Effective June 25, 2010: There is no longer a two time examination fail limit. NOTE: Candidates that applied prior to June 25, 2010 are subject to previous requirements.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011: All required examinations must be taken and passed within 24 months of the date that training was completed.

IT IS THE CANDIDATES RESPONSIBILITY TO FAX, MAIL, OR E-MAIL ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA COSMETOLOGY COORDINATOR AT PCS AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY.

*******STATE GUIDELINES*******

National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC):

Please visit www.nicesting.org/cand_info.htm for the most current theory and practical content outline of the Cosmetology examination.

Practical Examination:

The South Carolina State Board of Cosmetology requires candidates to be examined in the following services:

Core Domain Services – Beginning July 1, 2011

Set Up and Client Protection

Thermal Curling

Haircutting

Chemical Waving

Virgin Hair Lightening Application and Hair Color Retouch

Virgin Relaxer Application and Relaxer Retouch

Basic Facial

Manicure

Mannequins:

A mannequin is required for all services. The candidate must provide the necessary clamp to properly secure a mannequin head or hand to a table during the examination. A suitable substitute for a commercial mannequin hand is a medical quality glove filled to its entirety with sand or cornmeal and sealed.

Thermal Curling Irons:

Cold thermal curling irons are now required. No heat or electricity necessary. Candidates will be asked to “simulate” testing the temperature of your **cold** curling iron.

Aerosol Products:

Candidates are not permitted to use aerosol products at anytime during the examination.

Kit Size:

Recommended kit size is no larger than 30”x30”. For safety reason all kits must be able to fit completely under the table area.

Dress Code:

EFFECTIVE JUNE 25, 2010: A dress code will no longer be enforced at examinations.