



STATE OF VERMONT  
**BARBER, COSMETOLOGY,  
 ESTHETICIAN, INSTRUCTOR, and  
 NAIL TECHNICIAN EXAMINATIONS**



CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

This *Candidate Information Bulletin* ("CIB") is intended for your use in preparing and understanding the procedures for applying for a license and scheduling to test. The Vermont Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists (the "Board") is responsible for licensing and regulating the barber and cosmetology related professions in the State of Vermont. The Board has contracted with Professional Credential Services ("PCS") to provide examination services. The Board, through PCS, will exclusively use the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology ("NIC") examinations.

**(U.S. Postal Service)**

Professional Credential Services  
 Vermont Coordinator  
 P.O. Box 198768  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8689  
 Toll-free: (888) 822-3272  
 Fax: (615) 846-0153

**(Courier Delivery)**

Professional Credential Services  
 Vermont Coordinator  
 150 Fourth Avenue North Suite 800  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
 Email: [vtcos@pcshq.com](mailto:vtcos@pcshq.com)  
 Web site: [www.pcshq.com](http://www.pcshq.com)

**Office of Professional Regulation**

Vermont Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists  
 National Life Building, North FL2  
 Montpelier, VT 05620-3402  
 Phone: (802) 828-1134  
 Website: [http://vtprofessionals.org/opr1/cosmetologists\\_barbers/](http://vtprofessionals.org/opr1/cosmetologists_barbers/)  
 Email: [kshangraw@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:kshangraw@sec.state.vt.us)

**Eligibility Requirements:** A candidate who wishes to obtain a Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetician or Nail Tech license must pass a **theory, practical** and **state law** examination within one year of the first examination that is passed. To qualify to take these examinations, a candidate must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

1. Complete the online application (apply online at [www.pcshq.com](http://www.pcshq.com))
2. Be at least 18 years of age
3. Have a high school diploma or G.E.D.
4. School Training Verification Affidavit

- **Barber** –1000 classroom hours or 24 months apprenticeship for licensure as a Barber
- **Cosmetology** –1500 classroom hours or 24 months apprenticeship for licensure as a Cosmetologist
- **Esthetician** – 600 classroom hours or 12 months apprenticeship for licensure as an Esthetician
- **Nail Technician** – 400 classroom hours or 8 months apprenticeship for licensure as a Manicurist (Nail Tech)

**Required Documentation:**

1. **Proof of High School Education:** A copy of your high school diploma or G.E.D.  
 If submitting a high school transcript, this information must be mailed directly from the school; or if mailed by the candidate, the transcript must be in a separately sealed envelope from the school. If the school cannot locate the transcript, a letter from the school will be acceptable. The letter must be directly from the school (on school letterhead) with a signature from the principal or counselor and must include the time period the student attended the school and the date of graduation.
2. **Proof of Training:** A school **Verification Affidavit** documenting your completion of the required number of schooling hours. (must be mailed to PCS)

**Instructor License** - A candidate who wishes to obtain an INSTRUCTOR license must pass a **theory** and a **state law** examination within a year. To qualify to take these examinations, a candidate must:

1. Complete an online application (apply online at [www.pcshq.com](http://www.pcshq.com))
2. Have three years of full time experience in the profession to which you are seeking to become a licensed instructor.

\* A candidate who wishes to obtain an INSTRUCTOR license must complete the *Experience Verification* section of the online application

**Endorsement:** If you hold a license in a state other than Vermont, then contact the board at (802) 828-1134.

**Reinstatement:**

If less than three (3) years has passed between the license expiration and a request for reinstatement, contact the board office at (802) 828-1134. If more than three (3) years has passed between the license expiration and a request for reinstatement, you must apply as a first time candidate and successfully pass a **theory, practical** and **state law** examination.

**How to APPLY with Professional Credential Services:**

1. Go online to [www.PCSHQ.com](http://www.PCSHQ.com).
2. Click **COSMETOLOGY & BARBERING** link (left side of page).
3. Click **VERMONT** link.
4. Click **APPLICATION PROCESS** link.
5. Click **APPLY ONLINE** link.

Important \* You must register with your full legal name as it appears on their government issued identification.  
 \* You must provide a reliable e-mail address (A school e-mail address is acceptable)

**Fees:** Fees will be paid to PCS. **Do not send examination fees to the Board.**

FIRST TIME FEE: \$275 (fee includes all required examinations)      Endorsement (State Law exam ONLY) - \$90  
 RE-EXAM FEE:      Practical - \$140      Theory - \$155      State Law - \$90

### **How do I track my application status?**

Once you register with PCS, you will be able to track your status 24/7. Simply click **ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT** on the main page of PCSHQ.COM and your current status will display once you sign in.

### **Eligibility Approval Process:**

All required documentation must be sent to PCS for review and approval. **If approved, PCS will notify you via e-mail.**

### **Practical Examination:**

Once your application has been approved by PCS, you will be scheduled for the practical examination date selected during registration (**must adhere to practical examination deadline dates**). You will be notified via e-mail of your practical examination date, time, and location approximately 10 days prior to your actual practical exam date. If you do not receive an Admission Notice via e-mail on the Monday prior to the examination date, please call PCS at (888) 822-3272 for further instructions. An official Admission Notice for the practical examination will be provided to eligible candidates during the time of registration at the examination site.

### **Theory Examination:**

You will receive an **Authorization to Test (ATT)** for the theory examination via email once you have been approved to test. If you do not receive your ATT email within 2 days, please call PCS at (888) 822-3272. (Note – Open the attachment within the email for additional directions on how to schedule your theory examination)

**How to Schedule and Take the Theory Examination:** Upon receipt of your ATT, you may request to take the theory examination by logging onto the IQT website, [www.iqttesting.com](http://www.iqttesting.com), entering your unique Username and Password, and following the instructions detailed on your letter. You can also contact Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) at (866)773-1114. It is important to note that your ATT **cannot be faxed** to you or to the IQT site.

Seats for Theory examinations are offered daily, on a first come first serve basis, using a computer-based testing platform. Since IQT administers exams for many different professions, a "seat" may not be available at the time you wish to test if you have not provided sufficient lead-time in scheduling your exam. There are several IQT Testing Centers throughout Vermont; however, you can sit for your exam at any IQT test center located throughout the United States. You may access test center information at [www.isoqualitytesting.com](http://www.isoqualitytesting.com). Maps and test center hours are available from this web site as well.

Your examination will be administered on a personal computer, and you will select your answers either by using a mouse or the keyboard. Please visit [www.isoqualitytesting.com](http://www.isoqualitytesting.com) for any questions or additional information relating to computer-based testing. If you encounter any problems during the administration of your exam, you should notify the test administrator immediately. You will be given 90 minutes to complete the entire examination.

**What about the Law Exam?** Examination questions are multiple-choice with one correct answer and three incorrect responses. There is no penalty for guessing. IQT 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 **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. The name on the identification must be the same as the name used to register for the examination.

#### **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 with Raised Seal

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

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 Exam 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, jackets, coats, 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 a report of the incident to the Board and PCS. Smoking or the use of tobacco is strictly prohibited in the examination room. PCS or IQT are not responsible for **any** personal items brought into the examination site.

**Environmental Distracters:** Although every effort is made to provide a quiet and comfortable test environment, unforeseen or unavoidable situations may occur where noise or room temperature can be a distraction to some candidates. While each individual is different, the temperature in the Testing Centers may not be suitable for all candidates. You will need to wear a type of clothing that would allow you to adapt to a cooler or warmer climate as you deem necessary.

**Emergency Policy:** In the event of inclement weather or similar emergency, a scheduled examination may be canceled or delayed without notice. However, this decision is made only in rare instances and at the discretion of PCS and/or IQT. 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 IQT for inquiries regarding the theory examination.

**Refunds and Rescheduling Policies:** You may reschedule your theory examination without losing your fee **if** you contact IQT within five business days **prior** to your scheduled examination date. If you attempt to reschedule or cancel your exam **after** the five business day window, you will forfeit your exam fee.

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. Documentation of the above-noted exceptions is required.

Refunds are **not issued** nor are fees transferable for either the **theory or practical** examinations

**Score Information:** When you complete the **theory** examination, the Proctor will print a "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, contact IQT immediately and a score report will be provided to you within 24 hour.

The pass or fail results of the 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 reapply for your examination. For the theory and practical examination, an overall score of 75 must be achieved.

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

**Passing Candidates:** When you have passed all required examinations, your scores will be electronically sent to the state of Vermont. It is not necessary to notify the Board that you have passed the examination; the Board is provided candidate scores on a daily basis. The Board will automatically issue a license shortly after.

**Failing Candidates:** Candidates who fail the theory and/or practical examination must reapply with PCS online at [www.PCSHQ.com](http://www.PCSHQ.com).

**IT IS THE CANDIDATES RESPONSIBILITY TO FAX, MAIL, OR E-MAIL ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO THE VERMONT COORDINATOR AT PCS AND THE VERMONT STATE BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGIST.**

\*\*\*\*\***STATE GUIDELINES**\*\*\*\*\*

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

Please visit [www.nictesting.org/cand\\_info.htm](http://www.nictesting.org/cand_info.htm) for the most current practical and theory examination content outlines.

Practical Examination:

The Vermont Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists requires candidates to be examined in the following services:

<p><b><u>Barber Styling</u></b>  <b><u>Core Domain Services</u></b>                  Set Up and Client Protection                  Shaving with a Straight Razor                  Haircutting                  Chemical Waving                  Hair Lightening/Coloring                  Chemical Relaxing</p> <p><b><u>Mannequin(s):</u></b>                  A mannequin is required for all services. You are permitted to bring up to two (2) mannequin heads. The candidate must provide the necessary clamp to properly secure a mannequin head to a table during the examination.</p>	<p><b><u>Cosmetology</u></b>  <b><u>Core Domain Services</u></b>                  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                  Sculptured Nail</p> <p><b><u>Mannequin(s):</u></b>                  A mannequin head/hand is required for all services. The candidate must provide the necessary clamp to properly secure a mannequin head to a table during the examination. <u>Mannequin Hand</u> - A suitable substitute for a commercial mannequin hand is a medical quality glove filled to its entirety with sand or cornmeal and sealed.</p> <p><b><u>Thermal Curling Irons:</u></b>                  Candidates will use a <u>COLD</u> curling iron for the Thermal Curling section of the practical examination.</p>
<p><b><u>Esthetician</u></b>  <b><u>Core Domain Services</u></b>                  Set Up and Client Protection                  Cleansing and Steaming the Face                  Massaging the Face                  Manual Extraction of the Forehead                  Hair Removal of the Eyebrows                  Facial Mask                  Facial Makeup</p> <p><b><u>Mannequins:</u></b>                  A mannequin is required for all services. The candidate must provide the necessary clamp to properly secure a mannequin head to a table during the examination.</p> <p><b><u>Hair Removal of the Eyebrows</u></b>                  Simulated soft wax products such as honey or thick lotion are acceptable.</p>	<p><b><u>Nail Technician (NIC Manicuring)</u></b>  <b><u>Core Domain Services</u></b>                  Set Up and Client Protection                  Manicure                  Nail Tip                  Nail Wrap                  Sculptured Nail                  Polish</p> <p><b><u>Mannequin Hand:</u></b>                  A Mannequin hand is required for all services. The candidate must provide the necessary clamp to properly secure a mannequin 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.</p>

**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:**

Candidates may not wear clothing, badges, pins or other items which promote brand names or disclose the school where training occurred.