



Summary of Virginia Licensing Requirements

BOARD FOR BARBERS & COSMETOLOGY

In addition to the requirements below, all applicants must submit a license application and fee.

Cosmetologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,500 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 3,000-hour Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI); <i>or</i> ○ Virginia High School Cosmetology Program; <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* (U.S. Only) • Pass written and practical exam
Barber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,100 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 2,000-hour Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI); <i>or</i> ○ Virginia High School Barber Program; <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* ++ (U.S. Only) • Pass written and practical exam
Master Barber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 400 hours of master training in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 1,500 hours of dual training in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ Virginia High School Barber Program; <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* ++ (U.S. Only) • Pass written and practical exam
Nail Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 150 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 2,000-hour Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI); <i>or</i> ○ Virginia High School Nail Tech Program; <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* (U.S. Only) • Pass written and practical exam
Wax Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 115 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* (U.S. Only) • Pass written and practical exam
Esthetician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 600 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 2,000-hour Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI); <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* • Pass written and practical exam
Master Esthetician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Esthetician License • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 600 hours of master training in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 2,000-hour Registered Apprenticeship (DOLI); <i>or</i> ○ Equivalent Out-of-State program* • Pass written and practical exam

Tattooer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 750 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ 1,500 hour Licensed Apprenticeship (DPOR); <i>or</i> ○ For Out-of-State applicants (U.S. Only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equivalent Out-of-State program* <i>or</i> 3 years legal tattooing experience out of last 5 years, <u>AND</u> ▪ Approved bloodborne pathogen, CPR, and First Aid (see approved providers guidance document) • Pass written exam
Permanent Cosmetic Tattooer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 90 hours in licensed Virginia school; <i>or</i> ○ For Out-of-State applicants (U.S. Only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equivalent Out-of-State program* <i>or</i> 3 years legal tattooing experience out of last 5 years, <u>AND</u> ▪ Approved bloodborne pathogen, CPR, and First Aid (see approved providers guidance document) • Pass written exam
Master Permanent Cosmetic Tattooer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training must include cheek blush, eye shadow, breast and scar re-pigmentation or camouflage (U.S. Only) • Pass written exam
Body-Piercer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Approved Training Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,500-hour Licensed Apprenticeship (DPOR) ○ For Out-of-State applicants (U.S. Only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equivalent Out-of-State program* <i>or</i> 3 years legal tattooing experience out of last 5 years, <u>AND</u> ▪ Approved bloodborne pathogen, CPR, and First Aid (see approved providers guidance document) • Pass written exam
Ear-Only Body-Piercer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on a mechanized, pre-sterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter and/or lobe of the ear and aftercare of piercing • Approved bloodborne pathogen, CPR, and First Aid (see approved providers guidance document)

***ATTENTION: Out-of-State Applicants**

If your training consisted of the same or more hours than the Virginia requirement, you must submit documentation of your training (see [Training & Experience Verification Form](#)).

If your hours were less than Virginia’s requirement, then you must submit proof of 6 months’ work experience along with your training documentation (see [Training & Experience Verification Form](#)).

†† Out-of-State Barber/Master Barber Applicants

If your barber training and scope of practice included chemical texture services, please contact the Board directly to determine whether you qualify for the master barber license.