

Addendum  
Cosmetology and Barbering  
Licensure and Testing Information

**>  61-17A-3. Barbering defined. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

Barbering includes any one or any combination of the following practices when done upon the upper part of the human body for cosmetic purposes for the public generally, upon male or female:

- A. shaving or trimming the beard or cutting the hair;
- B. curling and waving, including permanent waving, the hair;
- C. giving facial and scalp massage or treatments with oils, creams, lotions or other preparations, either by hand or mechanical appliances;
- D. shampooing, bleaching or dyeing the hair or applying tonics; or
- E. applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays or lotions to the scalp, face, neck or upper part of the body.

**History:** [Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 3.](#)

** 61-17A-4. Cosmetology defined. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

Cosmetology means the practice of those services that include:

- A. arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing, cutting, bleaching, coloring, straightening or similar work upon the hair of a person, whether by hand or through the use of chemistry or of mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances;
- B. using cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions or creams or massaging, cleansing, stimulating, manipulating, beautifying or performing similar work on the body of a person;
- C. manicuring and pedicuring the nails of a person;
- D. caring for and servicing wigs and hair pieces; or
- E. removing of unwanted hair except by means of electrolysis.

**History:** [Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 4.](#)

**ANNOTATIONS**

**Delayed repeals.** — For delayed repeal, see [61-17A-25 NMSA 1978](#).

** 61-17A-4.1. Hairstyling defined. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

Hairstyling includes any one or any combination of the following practices when done upon the upper part of the male or female human body for cosmetic purposes for the public generally, using the hands or manual, mechanical or electrical implements or appliances:

- A. cleansing, massaging or stimulating the scalp with oils, creams, lotions or other cosmetic or chemical preparations;
- B. applying cosmetic or chemical preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays or lotions to the scalp;
- C. cutting, arranging, applying hair extensions to or styling the hair by any means;
- D. cleansing, coloring, lightening, waving or straightening the hair with cosmetic or chemical preparations; or
- E. trimming a person's beard.

**History:** [Laws 2017, ch. 112, § 1.](#)

**ANNOTATIONS**

**Delayed repeals.** — For the delayed repeal of this section, see [61-17A-25 NMSA 1978](#).

**Effective dates.** — Laws 2017, ch. 112 contained no effective date provision, but, pursuant to [N.M. Const., art. IV, § 23](#), was effective June 16, 2017, 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

**61-17A-5. License required. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

- A. Unless licensed pursuant to the Barbers and Cosmetologists Act or exempted from the provisions of that act, no person shall practice barbering, hairstyling or cosmetology for compensation either directly or indirectly.
- B. Unless licensed pursuant to the Barbers and Cosmetologists Act, no person shall operate a school or establishment for compensation.
- C. Unless licensed pursuant to the Barbers and Cosmetologists Act or exempted from the provisions of that act, no person shall teach barbering, hairstyling, cosmetology or electrology for compensation.
- D. Unless licensed by the board pursuant to the Barbers and Cosmetologists Act, no person shall practice as a manicurist-pedicurist, esthetician or electrologist for compensation.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 5; 1997, ch. 218, § 2; 2017, ch. 112, § 4.

**61-17A-16. Fees. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

The board may, by rule, establish initial license and renewal fees not to exceed the following:

establishment license.....	\$200
school license.....	\$600
relocation of a school.....	\$300
cosmetologist license.....	\$100
barber license.....	\$100
hairstylist license.....	\$100
specialty license.....	\$100
instructor license.....	\$100
duplicate license.....	\$50.00
temporary license.....	\$25.00
administrative fee.....	\$100
limited license fee.....	\$100
licensure through reciprocity.....	\$200
transcript.....	\$50.00
examinations.....	\$100.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 16; 1997, ch. 218, § 11; 2017, ch. 112, § 7; 2019, ch. 243, § 1.

**61-17A-8. Licensure requirements; barbers. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, a barber license shall be issued to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who:

- (1) has an education equivalent to the completion of the second year of high school;
- (2) is at least seventeen years of age;
- (3) has completed a course in barbering of at least one thousand two hundred hours in a school or apprenticeship approved by the board; and
- (4) has passed an examination approved by the board.

B. A barbering license shall be issued to a person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, meets the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection A of this section and shows proof of having successfully completed a registered barbering apprenticeship approved by the state apprenticeship agency and the board of barbers and cosmetologists.

C. The holder of a barber license has the right and privilege to use the title "barber", and the initials "R.B." following the holder's surname and to use a barber pole, the traditional striped, vertical emblem of the barbering trade.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 8; 1997, ch. 218, § 5; 2015, ch. 85, § 1.

 **61-17A-8.1. Licensure requirements; hairstylists. (Repealed effective July 1, 2020.)**

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, a hairstylist license shall be issued to a person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who:

- (1) has an education equivalent to the completion of the second year of high school;
- (2) is at least seventeen years of age;
- (3) has completed a course in hairstyling of at least one thousand two hundred hours in a school; and
- (4) has passed an examination approved by the board.

B. A hairstylist license shall be issued to a person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and meets the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection A of this section.

C. The holder of a hairstylist license has the right and privilege to use the title "hairstylist".

**History:** [Laws 2017, ch. 112, § 2.](#)

 **61-17A-9. Licensure requirements; cosmetologists. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

A. A cosmetologist license shall be issued to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who:

- (1) is at least seventeen years of age;
- (2) has an education equivalent to the completion of the second year of high school;
- (3) has completed a course in cosmetology of at least one thousand six hundred hours at a school approved by the board; and
- (4) has passed an examination approved by the board.

B. The name of a licensed cosmetologist may be immediately followed by the initials "R.C.", as a right and privilege of licensure.

**History:** [Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 9](#); [1997, ch. 218, § 6.](#)

 **61-17A-10. Licensure requirements of manicurists-pedicurists, estheticians and electrologists. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

A. The board shall provide for the licensure of manicurists-pedicurists. The board shall issue a manicurist-pedicurist license to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who submits satisfactory evidence of compliance with all requirements established by the board. The name of a licensed manicurist-pedicurist may be immediately followed by the initials "R.M.", as a right and privilege of licensure.

B. The board shall provide for the licensure of estheticians. The board shall issue an esthetician license to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who submits satisfactory evidence of compliance with all requirements established by the board. The name of a licensed esthetician may be immediately followed by the initials "R.F.", as a right and privilege of licensure.

C. The board shall provide for the licensure of electrologists. The board shall issue an electrologist license to any person who files a completed application, accompanied by the required fees and documentation, and who submits satisfactory evidence of compliance with all requirements established by the board. The name of a licensed electrologist may be immediately followed by the initials "R.E.", as a right and privilege of licensure.

**History:** [Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 10](#); [1997, ch. 218, § 7.](#)

---

 **61-17A-20. Duration, restoration and renewal of licenses. (Repealed effective July 1, 2026.)**

A. The original issuance and renewal of licenses to practice as a barber, hairstylist, cosmetologist, instructor, esthetician, manicurist-pedicurist or electrologist shall be for a period of two years or less from the date of issuance. If the licensee fails to renew the license for the next two-year period, the license is void; provided the license may be restored at any time during the year following expiration upon the payment of the appropriate fee and a late charge not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) as set forth by board rules. If the licensee fails to restore the license within one year following its expiration, the licensee may request restoration of the license pursuant to rules promulgated by the board.

B. The original issuance and annual renewal of licenses to operate an establishment or school shall be for a period of twelve months or less following the issuance of the license. If the licensee fails to renew the license within thirty days after its expiration, the license is void, and, to again obtain a license, an application, required documentation, payment of the renewal fee and a late fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) as established by board rules is required.

C. The board may establish a staggered system of license expiration.

**History:** Laws 1993, ch. 171, § 20; 1997, ch. 218, § 14; 2007, ch. 181, § 17; 2017, ch. 112, § 8; 2019, ch. 243, § 2.



### **Approval Process (continued):**

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](http://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](http://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 New Mexico, however, you can examine at any PSI test center located throughout the United States. You may access test center information at [www.psiexams.com](http://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](http://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.

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:** 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. For the theory examination, a score of 75 is required in order to pass. 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. For the 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 both the theory and the practical examinations, you will be provided with a **Licensure Fee Notice** with your score. Please mail this form with the required fees to the NM Board for your license. Please be sure to notify PCS of any mailing address changes. Once you have met all licensure requirements please allow the Board 30 business days to process and mail your license. It is not necessary to notify the Board that you have passed an examination; the Board is provided candidate scores on a daily basis.

**Failing Candidates:** If you fail the examination or are absent, you must reapply and resubmit fees to PCS by calling: 1-888-822-3272.

**Expiration of Training Hours:** Pursuant to New Mexico Regulation 16.34.2.8A(2)(c) All required examinations must be taken and passed within 24 months of the date training was completed. After 24 months, you are required to complete a minimum of 150 hours of remedial education; upon completion, you must submit a new application to PCS along with proof of completing these additional hours. You must also re-take and pass all required examinations.

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

**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 theory and practical content outline of the Cosmetology examination.

**Practical Examination:**

The New Mexico State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers requires candidates to be examined in the following services:

**Core Domain Services**

- Set Up and Client Protection
- Thermal Curling
- Haircutting
- Chemical Waving
- Virgin Hair Lightening Application and Hair Color Retouch
- Virgin Relaxer Application and Relaxer Retouch

**Mannequins:**

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.

**Thermal Curling Irons:**

Candidates will use a **cold** curling iron for the Thermal Curling section of the practical examination.

**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.

**MMA:**

Due to health and safety issues associated with Methyl Methacrylate Polymers (MMA), it is required that odorless sculptured nail products be used for the practical examination.