

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulations requires the following:

1. A license as a cosmetologist shall be issued by the board to any person who:
 - a. is at least sixteen years of age and possesses a high school diploma, or at least tenth grade education, or the equivalent as established by tests used in public schools, or equivalent as established by psychological examinations determined by a certified psychologist, or successfully passes a standardized test given by a vocational rehabilitation counselor;
 - b. has completed 1500 hours in classes in cosmetology;
 - c. passes the examination prescribed by the board and pays the required fee.
2. A license as an esthetician shall be issued by the board to any person who:
 - a. is at least sixteen years of age and possesses a high school diploma, or at least tenth grade education, or the equivalent as established by tests used in public schools, or equivalent as established by psychological examinations determined by a certified psychologist, or successfully passes a standardized test given by a vocational rehabilitation counselor;
 - b. has completed 450 hours in classes in esthetics;
 - c. passes the examination prescribed by the board and pays the required fee.
3. A license as an instructor shall be issued by the board to any person who:
 - a. submits an application for an Instructor's License on a form prescribed by the Board; and
 - b. holds a high school diploma or a General Education Development (G.E.D.) certificate; and
 - c. is a licensed Cosmetologist, Nail Tech, or Esthetician and has practiced for at least two (2) years or, after receiving his respective Cosmetologist, Nail Tech, or Esthetician license, has completed a prescribed seven hundred fifty (750) hour instructor training program approved by the Board; and
 - d. has received forty-five (45) hours training in a teaching methods course approved by the Board; and-
 - e. pays the prescribed fee and passes the Instructor's Examination prescribed by the Board; or
 - f. alternately, for specialized theory hours, a person who has a minimum of five (5) years experience or a bachelors degree in a related profession, occupation or cognitive area, may instruct the required theory classes with prior approval of the Board.

Information regarding licensure and endorsement is available by contacting the South Carolina State Board of Cosmetology or by visiting their website at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Cosmetology/

*Those with convictions may not be able to receive a license. Anyone with a conviction may appear before the Board of Cosmetology, with a current SLED report, for licensure consideration.

Employment Restrictions

In the state of South Carolina, you must be licensed in order to practice in the field of cosmetology, esthetics, nail technology, or as an Instructor. All Employers must verify licensure for employment purposes.

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation's Board of Cosmetology oversees licensees within these modalities. All regulations relating to the above-mentioned licenses are promulgated by the Board of Cosmetology. These include the Safety, Sanitation, and Disinfection Regulations.

It is important to know that South Carolina is an at-will state.