



For questions, comments, or complaints, contact the Board.

BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY

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WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING A BARBER SCHOOL

MISSION OF THE BOARD

Ensuring the health and safety of California consumers by promoting ethical standards and by enforcing the laws of the beauty and barbering industry.

WHY DO I NEED A BARBER LICENSE?

Barbers are licensed and regulated in California by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. The Board works to ensure that barbers follow state law and infection control standards to protect consumers.



DOES THE BOARD RECOMMEND SCHOOLS?

The Board can not recommend particular schools. The Board developed this pamphlet to help prospective students know what to look for in a barber school.



THE PRACTICE OF BARBERING IS ALL OR ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES:

- Shaving or trimming a beard or cutting hair.
- Giving facial and scalp massages or treatments with oils, creams, lotions, or other preparations either by hand or mechanical appliances.
- Singeing, shampooing, arranging, dressing, curling, waving, chemical waving, hair relaxing, dyeing the hair, or applying hair tonics.
- Applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, or lotions to scalp, face, or neck.
- Hairstyling of all textures of hair by standard methods that are current at the time of the hairstyling.

BOARD-APPROVED BARBER SCHOOLS

The Board approves schools of barbering. For a school to be approved by the Board, it must meet the Board's minimum curriculum requirements. Courses that are taught by non-Board-approved schools will not be recognized by the Board, and any hours obtained taking these courses and any certificates received will not qualify you for a Board examination.

A list of **approved schools** can be found on the Board's website at: www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/approved_schools.pdf.

Barbering programs' minimum requirements are 1,000 hours. Schools may offer programs that exceed 1,000 hours. If the minimum program requirements of the school exceed the minimum requirements for state licensure, the school shall disclose this, including a list of those programs that are not required for state licensure. Please check with schools about which programs they offer.



RESEARCH THE SCHOOL

Using the Board's list of approved schools, visit the school's website, call, or visit the campus to learn about their programs offered, curriculum, tuition costs, student services, and more. Look online for reviews from past students. Research multiple schools to see which would be the right fit for you.

To obtain a barber license, you will need to pass a written licensing exam. You can review a school's **pass/fail rates** for the licensing exam at: www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/schools/schls_rsllts.shtml.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the recognition from an accrediting agency that an institution maintains a certain level of educational standards. The U.S. Department of Education maintains a database of accrediting agencies it recognizes at: <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip>. The Board can not make any recommendations on accrediting agencies.

Accreditation ensures a certain level of academic quality. Accreditation means a school demonstrates positive student outcomes, like retention, graduation, and employment. Schools approved by the Board are not required to be accredited, but that is something to recognize when researching schools.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum for a barbering course shall, at a minimum, include technical and practical instruction in the following areas:

- **100 hours in health and safety**, which includes hazardous substances, chemical safety, safety data sheets, protection from hazardous chemicals, preventing chemical injuries, health and safety laws and regulations, and preventing communicable diseases.
- **100 hours in disinfection and sanitation**, which includes disinfection procedures to protect the health and safety of consumers as well as the technician and proper disinfection procedures for equipment used in establishments.
- **200 hours in chemical hair services**, which includes coloring, straightening, waving, bleaching, hair analysis, predisposition and strand tests, safety precautions, formula mixing, and the use of dye removers.
- **200 hours in hairstyling services**, which includes arranging, blow drying, cleansing, curling, dressing, hair analysis, shampooing, waving and nonchemical straightening, and hair cutting, including the use of shears, razors, electrical clippers and trimmers, and thinning shears, for wet and dry cutting.
- **200 hours in shaving and trimming of the beard**, which includes preparing the client's hair for shaving, assessing the condition of the client's skin, performing shaving techniques, applying aftershave antiseptic following facial services, and massaging the face and rolling cream massages.



FILING A COMPLAINT

The Board has jurisdiction over Board-approved schools for violations of the Barbering and Cosmetology Act and Regulations regarding health and safety issues, meeting minimum equipment requirements, and/or operating without approval from the Board. If you have concerns under the Board's jurisdiction, you may file a complaint on the Board's website at: <https://barbercosmo.ca.gov/enforcement/complaint.shtml>. You may also submit a complaint if a school offers to sell you hours or is not teaching the required curriculum.

THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

All schools must meet the minimum operating requirements in order to legally operate. The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) protects students and consumers through the oversight of California's private postsecondary educational institutions.

If you have concerns regarding fraud, contractual issues (enrollment agreement not followed), unqualified faculty, operating without BPPE approval, and disciplinary actions taken by another state or state agency, you can visit BPPE's website at <https://www.bppe.ca.gov>, call toll-free at (888) 370-7589, or email: bppe@dca.ca.gov.

