IDFPR
Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation

Qualifications for Licensure:

Barber

(006)

Effective: 3/2025
Revised: 9/2025

READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for a professional license in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your license and eliminate any processing delays.

Important:

- An application is active for three years from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our FAQs for answers to most questions. http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/About/FAQ.html
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's or this document, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420.
- If you do not meet the license qualifications as outlined, then you will not be granted a professional license.
- If you are unable to submit the required supporting documentation for the licensing method that matches your qualifications, then you may not be able to submit an application.
- All fees are non-refundable.
- Any document submitted to the Division in a foreign language must be accompanied by an original, notarized English translation. The translator must be fluent in both English and the foreign language and must certify to the accuracy of the translation.
- After you have submitted your application, all communication regarding your application will be through your email address of record.

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

Please review this section to determine if you are qualified to apply for this profession. Additionally, this section will assist you in determining which application method you should choose.

Education:

Complete 1500 clock hours of instruction of a barber curriculum from a licensed barber school or cosmetology school, with approval to teach barbering, that is approved by the Department.

Licensed Cosmetologists and Cosmetology Teachers may complete the 500-hour supplemental barber program.

An applicant's training received from a barber program or similar institution located in another state, other jurisdiction of the United States, or foreign jurisdiction must substantially comply with the requirements of Illinois.

Examination Method:

Take and pass the barber examination as administered by the Division or its designated testing service.

Applicants for examination will be approved to sit for the exam after all required supporting documentation has been submitted, reviewed, and approved.

Acceptance of Examination Method:

An applicant does not hold a license as a barber or barber teacher in any jurisdiction of the United States but has completed barber training and passed a barber licensing examination in another jurisdiction that is substantially similar to the requirements of Illinois. Passage of the licensing examination must be within 12 months of application.

Endorsement Method:

An applicant currently registered or licensed as a barber in another state or jurisdiction of the United States must submit an official certification of licensure from the state or government board in the applicant's jurisdiction of original licensure and from the state or government board in which the applicant is currently licensed and practicing, if other than the original, stating the applicant's name, the barber license number, the original issuance date and the expiration date. The license issued in another state or jurisdiction must be the same or substantially similar to the barber license issued by Illinois.

An applicant may be asked to submit school transcripts and/or verification of work experience to demonstrate that their current and, if applicable, original license is the same or substantially similar to the license issued by Illinois.

Foreign Endorsement Method:

An applicant who is currently registered or licensed as a barber in a foreign country must submit:

1. An official document from the government agency, board, or council in the applicant's original jurisdiction of practice stating the applicant's name, the barber license number, the original issuance date, the expiration date, a brief description of any licensure or exit examination taken to qualify for the license, and the grades received.
2. An official transcript from the school or schools attended by the applicant; and
3. Evidence that the applicant has practiced barbering in another jurisdiction for at least 3 years after completing the requirements to qualify for registration or licensure in that jurisdiction, but within 5 years preceding his/her application for endorsement.

Applicants using the endorsement method who are unable to satisfy all application requirements *may* be required to submit additional information, take additional coursework and/or pass the examination.

Please note, licenses obtained through reciprocity are not the same or substantially similar to an Illinois license. Illinois does not reciprocate licenses of another state, other jurisdiction of the United States, or foreign jurisdiction. Licenses obtained in other states through reciprocity subsequently submitted for licensure to the Department may not result in an applicant being granted an Illinois license through the endorsement method.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This section details the necessary documentation you will be asked to provide during the application process. Please do not begin an application until you are prepared to submit all documentation.

Examination Method:

Submit an official transcript from a licensed barber school showing graduation from a program with 1500 clock hours of instruction in the barber curriculum and a passing grade on the final examination administered by the school.

A licensed Cosmetologist or Cosmetology Teacher will submit their current cosmetologist or cosmetology teacher license number and an official transcript showing successful completion of the 500-hour supplemental barber course.

Acceptance of Examination Method:

Submit an official transcript from the school or program showing successful completion of training and proof of passage of the licensing examination within 12 months of application.

Endorsement Method:

Submit an official certification of licensure from the state or government board in the applicant's jurisdiction of original licensure and from the state or government board in which the applicant is currently licensed and practicing, if other than the original.

Foreign Endorsement Method:

An applicant who is currently registered or licensed as a barber in a foreign country must submit:

1. An official document from the government agency, board, or council in the applicant's original jurisdiction of practice stating the applicant's name, the barber license number, the original issuance date, the expiration date, a brief description of any licensure or exit examination taken to qualify for the license, and the grades received. The license issued in a foreign country must be the same or substantially similar to the barber license issued by Illinois;
2. An official transcript from the school or schools attended by the applicant showing the individual subject areas completed and the hours completed by the applicant, with the school seal affixed, or an official certification from the government agency, board or council showing the individual subject areas completed and the hours completed by the applicant with the board, agency or council seal affixed. Educational training credentials and transcripts and/or evidence of licensure obtained in a foreign country must be submitted to determine if the applicant's program substantially complies with the requirements of Illinois; and
3. Evidence that the applicant has practiced barbering in another jurisdiction for at least 3 years after completing the requirements to qualify for registration or licensure in that jurisdiction, but within 5 years preceding his/her application for endorsement. This evidence may be in the form of affidavits from at least 3 clients, coworkers or business owners who can verify the applicant's practice as a barber.

The Division provides an affidavit that may be used by the applicant to show evidence of experience: Verification of Experience Supporting Document (VE-COB)

Personal History Information:

All applicants will be asked a series of personal history questions. If answering *yes* to any of these questions, the applicant will be required to submit appropriate supporting documents in response to the questions. If answering *no*, no additional submission is required.

- Have you been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal offense in any state or in federal court? Have you been convicted of a felony? Applicants will not be asked to give details on minor traffic charges but to include information relating to Driving While Under the Influence (DUI) charges.
    - Submit a personal statement describing the circumstances of the conviction; and
    - certified copies of court records of your conviction including;
        - the nature of the offense(s);
        - date(s) of discharge from incarceration, if applicable; and
        - a statement from the respective probation or parole office, if applicable.
- Have you been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities by the Prisoner Review Board?
    - Submit a copy of the certificate of relief.
- Do you now have any disease or condition that presently limits your ability to perform the essential functions of your profession, including any disease or condition generally regarded as chronic by the medical community, i.e., (1) mental or emotional disease or condition; (2) alcohol or other substance abuse; (3) physical disease or condition?
    - Submit a detailed statement including an explanation of whether you are currently under treatment; and
    - a statement from your healthcare provider.
- Have you been denied a professional license or permit, or privilege of taking an examination, or had a professional license or permit disciplined in any way by any licensing authority in Illinois or elsewhere?
    - Submit a detailed explanation and all official records.
- Have you ever been discharged other than honorably from the armed service or from a city, county, state or federal position, or any other public employment?
    - Submit all official records relating to the discharge.

Abnormal Skin Growth Education:

All applicants who submit an application for original licensure on or after January 1, 2026, must submit proof of completion of a course approved by the Department in abnormal skin growth education, including training on identifying melanoma.

The Department approves the program "Skinny on Skin" by Impact Melanoma, Inc., as an online course that fulfills the abnormal skin growth education requirement to be completed by new applicants for original licensure.

This program can be completed on Impact Melanoma's website. A certificate of completion is provided at the end of the program, that certificate should be provided to the Department with the licensee's application.

Other Supporting Documents:

Submit proof of any name change (i.e., marriage license, divorce decree, affidavit, or court order) if the applicant's name is other than that shown on any submitted documents.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- All Barber licenses expire on July 31 of each odd-numbered year, regardless of issuance date.
- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.
- An inactive license is a license that has been placed on inactive status by the licensee, usually at renewal time. Typically, if you choose to reactivate your license you do not have to pay lapsed renewal fees if you placed your license on inactive status.
- The Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985 (Act) (225 ILCS 410/) as well as the Rules of the Administrative Code 68 Ill. Adm. Code, Section 1175 (Rules) regulating this profession may be amended from time to time. It is the responsibility of a licensee under the Act to be aware of any changes that may affect their profession and make any necessary adjustments to remain in compliance with the Act and Rules.
- The Department posts profession specific notices, statements and other information to the IDFPR website. Schools, educators, students and licensed professionals should visit the IDFPR website frequently, and their profession specific pages, to stay informed about the latest information and developments.