



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MIKE KENNEALY
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Notice on Cosmetology and Barbering Licensure Examinations

The Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering (“Board”)’s longstanding vendor Pearson Vue will no longer be providing examinations for the Board as of May 31, 2022. The Board will also be phasing out the physical practical examination at this time.

The Board is working on securing a new examination vendor. We hope to have an announcement ready soon, but there will be a transition period to set up a new application process and examinations. We will post any updates on the Board’s website, and we encourage you to monitor the Board’s homepage here for new information: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-of-cosmetology-and-barbering>

While this means that examinations will not be available for a period of time, the Board has worked to provide a solution for students who are currently enrolled in a Board-approved program. The Board has approved an extension of its current Apprentice and Student Employment Policy, allowing students to register as an apprentice or shop-employed student and to keep their registration for 120 days after graduation. Please note that the registration is not a full license, but it will allow students to work under supervision, performing a limited scope of activities for 120 days post-graduation.

A copy of the updated policy is available here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/policy-on-student-apprenticeship-and-employment/download>

An updated application for students to use to apply for a shop-employed student registration is available here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/shop-employed-student-application-1/download>

This registration is open to cosmetology, barbering, aesthetics, and manicuring students.

Students can begin applying for shop-employed student registrations right away. Applications can either be emailed to the Board at Cosmetologyandbarberingboard@mass.gov, or mailed to:

Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02118

If you have any questions on this information, please contact the Board at cosmetologyandbarberingboard@mass.gov or 617-701-8792.



We appreciate your patience as we work to transition to a new exam vendor, and hope to provide more updates soon.