

MICHIGAN BARBER LICENSING GUIDE

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1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated barber must do to become eligible for barber licensing in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips on the larger barber profession to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to rebuild your career.

REGULATION OF THE BARBER PROFESSION IN MICHIGAN

The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the barber profession in Michigan. Before you can be eligible for licensure, you must meet certain training requirements and pass a state examination. The examination is administered by PSI Services LLC (PSI) through various testing centers in Michigan.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

The process for obtaining a barber license in Michigan is as follows:

I. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN MICHIGAN

To become a licensed barber in the State of Michigan, a person must have met the following requirements:

- Is not less than 17 years of age.
- Is of good moral character.
- Demonstrates satisfactory completion of not less than a 1,800-hour course of study at a licensed barber college.
- Passes an examination approved by the board and the department.
- Has completed the tenth grade of school or has an equivalent education as determined by the department.

A. TRAINING RECEIVED IN MICHIGAN

Upon completion of training as a barber, an online application must be completed and submitted at www.michigan.gov/mylicense. At the end of the application, a fee of \$80 must be submitted by credit or debit card (the card must have a Visa or MasterCard logo). In addition to this application, you must obtain an examination registration form from the barber college you attended which you or the barber college will submit to our examination

vendor, PSI. The examination registration form must be signed by a school official attesting to the completion of the barber program. Upon completing both of these processes, you would contact PSI to schedule your examination.

II. TRAINING RECEIVED OUTSIDE OF MICHIGAN OR IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY

To begin your application, go to BPL's website of www.michigan.gov/barbers to download the [Out-of-state Barber License Application](#). You may complete the application at our website; however, you will need to print the application and mail it to the address on the form with the required fee. In addition, you will need to submit one of the following:

- Transcript from the barber college you attended in the other state. The transcript must be original, be on the school's letterhead, and provide the subject areas studied with a breakdown of how many hours were spent in each subject area.
- Transcript from the barber college that was attended in the other country. The transcript must be original, be on the school's letterhead, and provide the subject areas with a breakdown of how many hours were spent in each subject area. In addition, if an examination was taken, provide documentation on how the examination was administered, if a written and hands-on practical examination were provided, and the subject areas covered on each examination. Any foreign language documents must be translated into English.
- If licensed in another state, you will need to make a copy of your current license or a license you held previously in another state. You must have been licensed for 1 out of the 3 years immediately preceding the date of submission of your application.

Upon receipt of the information, the application will be reviewed to determine whether the training and examination received in the other state or country are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state. Additional training and/or an examination may be required.

If an examination is required, a letter will be sent to the applicant with directions on how to apply for the examination and how to obtain further information regarding the examination (i.e. where the examination is given, what equipment to bring to the examination).

3. EXAMINATIONS

There are two parts to the examination for a barber. The first part is a hands-on practical examination. The practical examination is offered in Southfield, Grand Rapids, and Marquette. The theory examination is computer-based. The theory examination is offered in Southfield, Grand Rapids, Marquette, Lansing/Holt, and Gaylord.

To determine what is covered on the theory and/or practical examination, please visit PSI's website at www.psiexams.com to download the [Candidate Information Bulletin \(CIB\)](#). The CIB provides helpful information regarding the examination, such as an outline of the examination, suggested reference list, supplies/equipment you will need to bring to the practical examination, etc.

The cost to take the theory and practical examination is \$161. The cost to retake one part of the examination is \$91.

The passing score for the theory examination is 70% and 75% for the practical examination.

4. TIME AND COSTS

To be successfully licensed as a barber in Michigan depends on a number of factors, including:

- The completeness of your educational records
- Your performance on required examinations
- Your free time and how much you can afford to spend

We provide two hypothetical scenarios to show just some of the variety of results that immigrant professionals may find when they seek to become a barber in Michigan. Please consider these scenarios as two examples out of many possibilities. Please understand that individual experiences may vary.

TWO HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS FOR OBTAINING A BARBER LICENSE:

Step	More Efficient Scenario Approximate Time and Cost	Less Efficient Scenario Approximate Time and Cost
1 Receive training through barber college program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,000 for tuition • No disruption to the training • 1 year + \$8,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have disruptions in the training causing the training to take three years to complete • 3 years + \$8,000
2 License Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have no problems in applying for license online • 1 day + \$80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have problems applying online and takes a week to complete the license application • 1 week + \$80
3 Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass each part of the examination on the first attempt • Already have the supplies needed to take examination • Take both parts of the examination within 1 month after completing training • 1 month + \$161 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have to take the theory and practical examination 2 times • Have to purchase supplies needed to take the practical exam • Takes 6 months to pass both parts of the examination • 6 months + \$540
	More Efficient Total Approximately 13 months + \$8,241	Less Efficient Total Approximately 3 ½ years + \$8,620

5. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

A person may own a barber shop or barber college without being licensed as a barber. However, the owner of a barber shop or barber college may not perform any barbering services without holding a license in Michigan as barber.

A barber shop license application must be submitted to obtain a barber shop license. Additional paperwork is required with the application.

A barber college license application must be submitted to obtain a barber college license. Additional paperwork is required with the application.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Barber licenses expire on September 30 of the odd-numbered years. Licensees will receive a renewal notice approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date. You must renew the license online. The cost to renew is \$80. If your license expires, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactive your license.

LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

Michigan does not have a reciprocal agreement with any other state. However, a license may be granted to an applicant who has met substantially equal requirements in another state; otherwise, the applicant may have to obtain additional training or take an examination to meet requirements.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

LICENSING AND REGULATION

- The [Bureau of Professional Licensing](#) is the state regulatory agency for the barber profession in Michigan. The website specifically for the barber profession is www.michigan.gov/barbers, which includes links to the barber profession's laws and administrative rules, applications, frequently asked questions, etc.
- Contact information: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, BPL – Licensing Division, PO Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909.
- Telephone Number 517-241-9288; Fax: 517-373-7179 Email: bplhelp

TESTING

A Candidate Information Bulletin is available on PSI's website at www.psiexams.com or you may click on the link below:

- [Exam bulletin for barbers](#)