

MICHIGAN BARBER'S LICENSING GUIDE FOR SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

- [1. How the Profession Is Organized in Michigan](#)
- [2. Eligibility for Licensing](#)
- [3. Tests](#)
- [4. Other Careers and Credentials](#)
- [5. Beyond Licensing](#)
- [6. Important Links](#)

1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

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

REGULATION OF THE BARBER PROFESSION

The practice of serving as a barber in Michigan is regulated by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). You must be licensed to practice as a barber in Michigan. The guide assumes that you are an international barber who is beginning to build your career in the U.S. and that your Michigan license will be your first U.S. barber's license. The guide will include steps that come before the final state licensing process which includes education and exams.

You will become a barber by examination. The barber examination is administered by PSI Services, LLC (PSI) at www.psiexams.com.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

OVERVIEW

Internationally educated barbers need to meet several requirements to receive a barber license in Michigan.

- I. Be at least 17 years of age.
- II. Be of good moral character.
- III. Demonstrate satisfactory completion of not less than a 1,800-hour course of study at a licensed barber college.
- IV. Pass an examination approved by the board and the department. Michigan's barber examination is administered by PSI.
- V. Has completed the tenth grade of school or has an equivalent education as determined by the department.
- VI. Submit your licensure application, required supporting documents, and pay the application fee. An applicant must submit an online application at www.michigan.gov/elicense.

Your application for a barber's license and fee are valid for 1 year. If you have not met all requirements within 1 year, you will need to submit a new application and pay the appropriate fee again.

TRAINING RECEIVED IN MICHIGAN

Upon completion of training as a barber, you must submit an online application at <http://www.michigan.gov/elicense>. In addition, you must obtain an examination registration form from the barber college you attended which you or the barber college will submit to PSI. The examination registration form must be signed by a school official attesting to the completion of the barber program.

TRAINING RECEIVED OUTSIDE OF MICHIGAN OR IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY

If you completed your training as a barber outside of Michigan or in a foreign country, you must submit the Out-of-State Barber License Application from LARA that can be downloaded from www.michigan.gov/occupationallicense.

Your Out-of-State Barber License Application sent to the Bureau of Professional Licensing should include:

- Complete Application
- Appropriate Fee
- Transcript from the barber college you attended, if applicable. 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. 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.
- Copy of your current or expired license, if licensed 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, your application will be reviewed to determine whether the training and examination received is substantially equivalent to the requirements of Michigan. Additional training and/or an examination may be required.

If an examination is required, a letter will be sent to you with directions on how to apply for the examination.

Your application for a barber license and fee are valid for 1 year. If you have not met all requirements within 1 year, you will need to submit a new application and pay the appropriate fee again.

3. TESTS

To obtain a barber license in Michigan, you must pass the theory and practical examination administered by PSI unless the Department has determined your training and examination received is substantially equivalent to the requirements of Michigan.

If you completed your training as a barber outside of Michigan or in a foreign country and the Department has determined your training and examination received is **NOT** substantially equivalent to the requirements of Michigan, the Department will mail you an Authorization to Test letter with instructions for scheduling your exam with PSI.

CONTENT AREAS OF THE BARBER EXAMINATION

There are two parts to the barber examination. The first part is a hands-on practical examination. You must pass the practical portion of the examination before you can schedule to take the theory portion of the examination. The practical portion of the exam will be 2 hours and 50 minutes in length and measures performance in the following tasks: Pre-Exam Set Up and Disinfection; Shampoo Service; Blow Drying Service; Hair Cutting Service; Mock Shaving Service; Facial Service; Chemical Services; Virgin Hair Relaxer on Left Front Quadrant; Virgin Hair Relaxer on Right Front Quadrant; Permanent Waving Service; End of Exam Disinfection.

The second part of Michigan's barber examination is the computer based theory portion. The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions and you will have 2 hours. The theory portion measures your knowledge on the following topics: Sanitation, Disinfection and Safety; Shampooing and Conditioning Hair; Haircutting and Hairstyling; Shaving; Chemical Texture Services; Hair coloring; Skin Care; Licensing.

SCHEDULING AND TESTING SITE PROCEDURES OF THE BARBERS LICENSING EXAMINATION

On the day of the exam, you must provide 1 form of identification. This must be a VALID form of government issued identification, which bears your signature and has your photograph. The name on the identification must exactly match the first and last name under which the candidate is registered. You should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. You may visit www.psiexams.com for more information regarding PSI's testing locations.

FAILING THE BARBERS LICENSING EXAMINATION

If you need to retake the examination, contact PSI by phone or by on-line registration. PSI will provide available dates for scheduling your re-examination.

PRACTICING FOR THE BARBERS LICENSING EXAMINATION

There are many different resources that can help you prepare for the content and the computer based testing technology. There are a variety of test preparation resources available for low cost.

Before you start your examination with PSI, an introductory tutorial to the computer and keyboard is provided on the computer screen. The time you spend on this tutorial, up to 15 minutes, DOES NOT count as part of your examination time. Sample questions are included as part of the tutorial so that you may practice using the keys, answering questions, and reviewing your answers.

4. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

LOWER-LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

You may want to consider if taking a lower-level job in a barber shop or college in the short-term can help you meet longer-term goals of licensing as a barber.

Preparing for the barber exam can take time. Working in a barber shop or college in a different way and with fewer responsibilities may offer you some advantages, such as:

- employers paying for tuition and fees associated with the barber exam and licensing
- more energy to focus on studying
- a chance to adapt to the U.S. barbers system and workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment

You should be honest with your employer about your long-term plans. You may find some employers have benefits such as tuition reimbursement or schedule flexibility that will support your goals.

BARBERSHOP OR COLLEGE OWNER

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 a 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.

5. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Barbers must renew their license every 2 years. Licenses expire on September 30 of odd-numbered years. LARA sends a notice reminding you to renew your license so be certain to keep your contact information up-to-date with their office. You are responsible for renewing your license even if you do not receive a notice from the Department. You must renew online. If your license expires, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate your license.

LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

The State of Michigan does not have any shared agreement to honor the barbers of other states. It grants licensing to barbers either by examination (the process described in this topic) or by a reciprocal application (where a barber licensed in another state must meet all Michigan requirements for licensing).

6. IMPORTANT LINKS

LICENSING AND REGULATION:

- The main page for the licensing of any occupational profession is www.michigan.gov/occupationallicense.
- The page that focuses specifically on Barbers is: www.michigan.gov/barbers. It includes information regarding the boards, applications and licensing information.
- Contact information: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Professional Licensing
PO Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909

Telephone Number: 517-241-9288
Fax: 517-373-7179
Email: bplhelp@michigan.gov

- The laws that regulate licensing for all occupational professions including Barbers can be located at [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(olhg5ev4ilcjqcjbdd4maf4c\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-act-299-of-1980](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(olhg5ev4ilcjqcjbdd4maf4c))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-act-299-of-1980)
- The administrative rules governing Barbers in Michigan can be located at: http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/AdminCode.aspx?AdminCode=Department&Dpt=LR&Level_1=Bureau+of+Professional+Licensing

TESTING:

- PSI Services, LLC (PSI) www.psiexams.com