



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

PROPOSED Guidance Document:

Master Barber Applicants who have Already Completed Training Equivalent to the Master Barber Curriculum

I. Background

In 2017, the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology determined that a portion of the barber training curriculum was outside of this scope of practice. Specifically, the Board identified **permanent waving with chemicals, thermal waving, styling, wig care, waxing, and lightening the hair** as outside the scope of practice of barbering. The Board stopped testing on these topics on December 11, 2017, and began assisting barber programs in changing their curriculum to the proper scope of practice.

In 2018, the General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to create a new type of license: master barber. The change reincorporates the above referenced practices under the scope of practice of the master barber license and granted a master barber license to anyone who was licensed as a barber by December 8, 2017. Some individuals completed training and or testing in the master barber subject areas, but were not licensed by the deadline to be grandfathered into the license. Additionally, others completed their Board approved barber training, which included these master barber subjects, after December 8, 2017.

The Board's revised regulations reflecting the master barber license allow individuals who complete approved master barber training programs to be eligible for the master barber examination. The Board has also reinstated the prior examination as the "master barber" examination.

II. Issue

The Board's regulations do not specifically identify whether the board approved barber training which included the master barber subjects but occurred before the master barber curriculum was added to the regulations would be approved training for the purposes of master barber examination eligibility. Additionally, the regulations were unclear as to whether individuals who completed the Board approved barber examination that covered the master barber topics, but were not licensed by December 8, 2017, would need to take that exam again. Pursuant to Board Regulation 18 VAC 41-20-20, the Board has interpreted whether applicants for the master barber license who have already completed approved training and examinations covering the master barber topics can be issued the master barber license.

III. Board Guidance

On November 19, 2018, the Board approved guidance for these two situations to take effect when the master barber regulations become effective.

Applicants who completed a Board approved 1,500 hour barbering program, 3,000 hour registered barber apprenticeship, or a Department of Education barbering program and who passed the barbering examinations prior to December 11, 2017 meet the training and examination requirements for the master barber license as established 18 VAC 41-20-20.

Applicants who completed a Board approved 1,500 hour barbering program, 3,000 hour registered barber apprenticeship, or a Department of Education barbering program, but who were unable to take the barbering exam prior to December 11, 2017 meet the training requirements for the master barber license as established 18 VAC 41-20-20, but will need to pass the master barber examinations in order to qualify for the license.

The Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding master barber applicants who have already completed training equivalent to the master barber curriculum. A 30-day comment period will begin on April 15, 2019.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received no later than May 15, 2019 to:

*Stephen Kirschner, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400
Richmond, VA 23233
(804) 367-2960
barbercosmo@dpor.virginia.gov*