



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING  
PO Box 9026 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9026

June 1, 2011

Dear School Owner:

We are excited to announce updates to the Cosmetology Testing Program for the state of Washington.

**Beginning July 1, 2011**, the following updates will take effect. The majority of the changes clarify areas of testing for students and instructors.

**All  
Practical  
Exams:**

- **Water** – Candidates do not have to bring water for the simulated services, **except for spray bottles of water for the Cosmetologist and Barber exams**. For some exams, some dry towels must be packaged and labeled, “Steamed Towels” and used as if they were wet. For manicure services, a dry fingerbowl must be used as if it had water in it.
- **Mock products** – Mock product containers can only represent one item. Each product must be in a separate labeled container. The same container of mock product may be used for more than one service as long as the product being used is the same and sanitation is maintained.
- **Disposal receptacles must be freestanding on floor** – Paper grocery/shopping bags that are lined with plastic garbage bags are acceptable. Plastic garbage bags on the floor or bags taped to counter **will no longer be allowed**. Disposal receptacles must remain within the boundaries of the candidate’s assigned work area during the exam.
- **Stabilization of mannequins** – Cloth towel between mannequin clamp and table is no longer required. It is the candidate’s responsibility to assure firm stabilization of the mannequin.
- **Linens** – Linens must be visibly sanitary.
- **Candidate positioning** – Candidates must stay within boundaries of their own assigned workstation during the exam, without bending or leaning into another candidate’s workspace.

**Cosmetologist  
Practical  
Exam:**

- **Changes in Cosmetologist exam time limits:**
  - Thermal Curling service now 10 minutes.
  - Haircut service now 50 minutes.
  - Manicure service now 20 minutes.
  - Facial service now 20 minutes.
- **Thermal Curling Service** – Mannequin heads must be free of product with no rollers in place. Pre-curls must be made with curling iron (no wet sets).
- **Haircut Service -**
  - Any uniform, layered haircut is now acceptable for the cosmetologist haircut service. It does not have to be a 90 degree haircut.
  - Mannequin #1 must have a minimum of 7 inches of hair all over.
  - Candidates must use shears for the haircut, razors are no longer allowed.

- **Chemical Wave Service** – Wave rods must be rolled at 90 degrees and sit properly on the head.
- **Chemical Relaxer Service** – Candidates are now instructed to smooth chemical relaxer to the ends.
- **Cross check** – Candidates are now instructed to cross check work on the haircut, the hair color/lightener, and chemical relaxing services.
- **Facial Service** - Candidates will demonstrate each required massage movement (effleurage, petrissage, and topotement) once over the face.
- **Manicure Service** –
  - Hand mannequins must be clean and free of polish on skin and nails.
  - Trainer hands are now acceptable.
  - If hand mannequin is made of a rubber glove, the glove must be white or clear.
  - All five nails must be attached and remain attached during the entire service.
  - Candidates must sanitize mannequin hand.
  - Candidates must maintain hand mannequins in the same position as they would when an actual service is being performed.
  - Polish remover does not have to be odorless.
  - Any color of dark nail polish can now be used.

**Manicurist  
Practical  
Exam:**

- Hand mannequins must be clean and free of polish on skin and nails.
- Trainer hands are now acceptable.
- If hand mannequin is made of a rubber glove, the glove must be white or clear.
- The same hand mannequin is used for all manicurist services and is considered to be the same client throughout the exam.
- All five nails must be attached and remain attached during the entire service.
- Candidates must sanitize mannequin hand.
- Candidates must maintain hand mannequins in the same position as they would when an actual service is being performed.
- Polish remover does not have to be odorless.
- Any color of dark nail polish can now be used.
- The nail tip is applied to the first digit, also known as the index finger.
- The nail wrap is applied to the second digit, also known as the middle finger.
- The sculptured nail is applied to the third digit, also known as the ring finger.

**Esthetician  
Practical  
Exam:**

- The mannequin head is considered to be the same client for all esthetician services. The same drape is used throughout.
- Tweezing and Waxing services are now performed with no break in between.
- Candidates will demonstrate each required massage movement (effleurage, petrissage, and topotement) once over the face.

**Barber  
Practical  
Exam:**

- Candidates must bring a **male** mannequin head to take the Barber exam.
- The same male mannequin is used for all barber services and is considered to be the same client throughout the exam.
- **No** styling or blow drying required on barber haircut.

**Instructor  
Practical  
Exam:**

**\*All instructor candidates who register for practical exams after June 1, 2011, with a test date on or after July 1, 2011:**

Candidates must perform the following lesson topics. Evaluators will ask questions of the candidate about the content of the lesson (as a student would ask).

	<b>Theory Lesson Topic (Lecture)</b>	<b>Demonstration Lesson Topics</b>
<b>Cosmetologist</b>	Elevations and layering	Demonstrate a uniformly layered haircut
<b>Barber</b>	Shaving strokes used in facial shave	Demonstrate the shaving strokes used in each of the 14 shaving areas
<b>Esthetician</b>	Products used in a cleansing facial	Demonstrate the cleansing facial procedure
<b>Nail Technician</b>	Procedural steps of the basic manicure	Demonstrate a basic manicure

**\*All instructor candidates who register for test dates on or after July 1, 2011:**

Candidates will be randomly assigned two lesson topics when signing up for the practical examination. One lesson topic is the theory lesson lecture and the other is the demonstration lesson. Lists of topics to be assigned are in the last section of the Exam Preparation Guide. The lists also include required procedures and process steps that **must** be covered in the lesson.

- Lessons are to be prepared and delivered as introductory classes on the topic for beginning students.
- Candidates must bring two copies of their lesson plans. One will be retained by the evaluator.
- Evaluators will ask questions of the candidate about the content of the lesson (as a student would ask).
- All instruction must include relevant safety and sanitation considerations.
- Candidates will be evaluated on preparedness, lesson planning and teaching techniques.

New Exam Preparation Guides and Exam Scripts are posted at [www.cosmetologywashington.com](http://www.cosmetologywashington.com)

If you have additional questions or comments, you may contact us at:

Business and Professions Division  
Cosmetology Licensing Section  
Phone: (360) 664-6440  
Email: [plssunit@dol.wa.gov](mailto:plssunit@dol.wa.gov)

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