

IOWA BOARD OF BARBERING - IMPORTANT EXAM INFORMATION

Individuals applying for Iowa barber licenses must complete the computerized barber theory and barber stylist practical examinations offered by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, Inc. (NIC) to be eligible for an Iowa barber license.

Application and examination information:

- PSI administers the computerized NIC theory examination to applicants applying for initial licensure at test sites throughout the United States. The PSI test centers are located in three Iowa cities: Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, and Des Moines.
- To register for the computerized theory examination, contact PSI directly at 1-800-733-9267 and pay the \$55 examination fee directly to PSI. The Registration Department is available Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. central standard time (excluding holidays and emergency closings): Applicants may also register online at <http://candidate.psiexams.com/index.jsp>.
- NIC will electronically transfer applicants' score reports to the board office following the theory examination. Applicants will receive an unofficial pass/fail report immediately following completion of the theory examination. If necessary, a retest may be scheduled at the applicants' convenience. The examination fee of \$55 will be charged for each retesting.
- Applicants must successfully pass the NIC barber theory examination to be eligible to take the NIC practical examination. The application, supporting documentation, fees, and official notification showing applicants received a score of at least 70 percent on the NIC computerized theory examination **must be received in the board office at least five business days prior to the scheduled date of the practical examination**. If all documents are received and the application is approved, applicants will be eligible to take the NIC practical examination. Applicants will receive written notification from the board office stating the exam date and time.
- The Iowa Barber Board administers the NIC practical examination four times a year at the American College of Hairstyling, 603 East 6th St., Des Moines, IA. The examination dates are January, April, July, and October. Please refer to the Practical Exam Schedule for the current exam dates.
- Important information about the practical examination is available on the NIC Web Site at www.nictesting.org. Applicants must refer to the Barber Styling Candidate Information Bulletin for exam requirements and to obtain a list of supplies required for the exam. (Applicants are required to bring their own supplies.) Each Applicant must bring one live model (See requirements for live models in the Candidate Information Bulletin). The live model will be used for evaluating Shaving with a Straight Razor (blade **is** required in Iowa) and Haircutting. A mannequin will be used for evaluating Chemical Waving, Hair Lightening/Coloring, and Chemical Relaxing. Set Up and Client Protection will be evaluated throughout the examination process. Blood spill procedures are not evaluated unless there is an accidental blood spill during the exam. If a blood spill occurs, the applicant must follow blood spill procedures listed in the [Candidate Information Bulletin](#).
- Approximately 14 days following the examination, applications will receive written notification of the practical examination results. If applications successfully pass the practical examination (score of 70 percent) and there are no issues pending board review, the barber license will be issued within five working days. If applicants must retake the practical examination, refer to the Practical Exam Schedule for the next available practical exam testing date and contact the board office at 515-281-6959 or Tamara.Hidlebaugh@idph.iowa.gov. The examination fee of \$75.00 will be charged for each retesting.