

SUBCHAPTER 14N - EXAMINATIONS

SECTION .0100 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

21 NCAC 14N .0101 TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-7(1); 88B-8(1); 88B-18; 88B-20(a); 88-4;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 14N .0102 INITIAL APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Cosmetologist candidates having completed a minimum of 1000 hours in a cosmetology curriculum from an approved cosmetic art school are authorized to receive the written examination. All cosmetic art licensee candidates shall have successfully completed the appropriate cosmetic art curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school before receiving the practical examination.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-7(1); 88B-8(1); 88B-18; 88B-20(a);
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. December 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; December 1, 2005; August 1, 2000; August 1, 1998;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

21 NCAC 14N .0103 GENERAL EXAMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) Examinations conducted by the Board shall be administered by a testing agency contracted by the Board.
- (b) Once a candidate has scheduled an examination the testing company shall provide:
- (1) the date, time and place of examination;
 - (2) information on how to obtain a Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB). The CIB contains the admission requirements, exam requirements and supplies needed for the examination; and
 - (3) a name and telephone number for further assistance.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-7; 88B-9; 88B-10; 88B-11; 88B-18;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1999; January 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2011; January 1, 2006; August 1, 2000;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

21 NCAC 14N .0104 LIVE MODEL REQUIREMENTS

21 NCAC 14N .0105 MANNEQUIN REQUIREMENTS

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-11; 88B-18;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; June 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 14N .0106 USE OF AN INTERPRETER

History Note: Authority G.S. 88-10(2); 88-12(2); 88-16; 88-17; 88-21(a)(16); 88-23; 88-30(4);
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. June 1, 1993;

Repealed Eff. January 1, 1996.

21 NCAC 14N .0107 SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISABLED

(a) If a candidate has a disability which will require special arrangements to take an examination, the candidate shall request such arrangements with his or her application for examination. The request for special arrangements shall be in writing and shall set out in sufficient detail what special arrangements are needed. The Board shall make reasonable accommodations for candidates requesting assistance under this Section, including any assistance required by applicable provisions of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

(b) If reading assistance, or a reader is required, the application for special arrangements shall also be accompanied by a letter from the candidate's cosmetic art school which documents the assistance the candidate required during classes there. In addition, the candidate shall submit a letter from a professional qualified to diagnose and document the disability.

(c) The application, accompanied by a letter from a professional qualified to diagnose shall document the disability.

(d) The candidate shall provide any special equipment or readers. A reader shall be 18 years of age or older.

(e) A reader shall not be:

- (1) currently or formerly licensed by this state or any state, nor have received or is currently receiving any training, in any branch of cosmetic art;
- (2) a current or former owner or employee of any beauty establishment;
- (3) simultaneously a model for any candidate taking the examination.

(f) The application for permission to use a reader shall be made on a form provided by the Board. The form shall include the applicant name, date of birth, and signature.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88-10(2); 88-12(2); 88-16; 88-17; 88-21(a)(16); 88-23; 88-30(4); Eff. June 1, 1992; Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; January 1, 1996; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015; Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

21 NCAC 14N .0108 FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0109 OBSERVATION OF EXAMINATION BY THIRD PARTIES

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-10(2); 88B-12(2); 88B-16; 88B-17; 88B-18; 88B-20(a); 88B-21(a)(16); 88B-23; 88B-30(4); Eff. June 1, 1992; Amended Eff. August 1, 2000; August 1, 1998; January 1, 1996; Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 14N .0110 PASSING GRADES FOR EXAMINATION

Candidates shall make the following grades on both the practical and theory sections of the examination:

- (1) For licensure as a cosmetologist, 75 percent;
- (2) For licensure as an apprentice cosmetologist, 70 percent;
- (3) for licensure as a cosmetology teacher, 85 percent;
- (4) For licensure as a manicurist teacher, 85 percent;
- (5) For licensure as a manicurist, 75 percent;
- (6) For licensure as an esthetician, 75 percent;
- (7) For licensure as an esthetician teacher, 85 percent; and
- (8) For licensure as a natural hair care specialist, 75 percent.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-7(2); 88B-8(2); 88B-9(2); 88B-10(2); 88B-10.1; 88B-11(b)(3); 88B-11(c)(3); 88B-11(d)(3); Eff. June 1, 1992; Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1999; Amended Eff. July 1, 2010; August 1, 2000;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

21 NCAC 14N .0111 NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION RESULTS

Any cosmetology student who completed a 1500-hour course and failed to make the required 75 percent on both parts of the cosmetology examination, but scored at least 70 percent on both parts, may send a written request for an apprentice cosmetologist license, along with the required fee, instead of taking the exam again. In this case, the candidate shall not be given credit toward apprentice time until the date the written request and appropriate fee are received in the office. Notice shall be sent, with the license, advising the applicant of the starting date of the apprenticeship.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-10(2); 88B-12(2); 88B-16; 88B-17; 88B-21(a)(16); 88B-23; 88B-30(4); Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2006;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

21 NCAC 14N .0112 REVIEW OF EXAMINATION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-8(2); 88B-10(2); 88B-18; 93B-8; Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2000; January 1, 1996;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 14N .0113 RE-EXAMINATION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-18; Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; June 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2011; July 1, 2010; May 1, 2007; January 1, 2006; February 1, 2004; August 1, 2000;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Repealed Eff. March 1, 2022.

21 NCAC 14N .0114 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CHAPTER

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-10(2); 88B-12(a)(2); 88B-16; 88B-17; 88B-21(a)(16); 88B-23; 88B-30(4); Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. December 1, 1993;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 14N .0115 FULL TIME AND PART TIME EQUIVALENCY

This Rule applies to teacher candidates who have not completed a teacher training course but submit proof of practice in the cosmetic arts industry. Candidates shall be approved for cosmetology teacher exams upon providing a signed affidavit documenting a minimum of 10,400 hours in the cosmetic arts industry to be eligible for Board examination. Candidates shall be approved for manicurist upon providing a signed affidavit documenting a minimum of 4,160 hours in the cosmetic arts industry to be eligible for Board examination. Candidates shall be approved for esthetician teacher exams upon providing a signed affidavit documenting a minimum of 6,240 hours in the cosmetic art industry. Applicants shall not receive credit for more than 2,080 hours per year for full-time work or less than 1,040 per year for part-time work.

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-11;

Eff. June 1, 2007;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2010;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 13, 2015;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2026.

SECTION .0200 - COSMETOLOGIST EXAM

21 NCAC 14N .0201 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0202 EXAMINATION – PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-10(2); 88B-12; 88B-12(2); 88B-17;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. June 1, 1994;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

SECTION .0300 - MANICURIST EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0301 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0302 EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-12; 88B-17; 88B-30(4);
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. June 1, 1994;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

SECTION .0400 - COSMETOLOGIST TEACHER EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0401 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0402 EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-12; 88B-17; 88B-21(a)(16); 88B-23;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. June 1, 1994;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

SECTION .0500 - MANICURIST TEACHER EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0501 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0502 EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-12; 88B-17; 88B-21(a)(16); 88B-23;
Eff. June 1, 1992;
Amended Eff. June 1, 1994;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

SECTION .0600 – ESTHETICIAN EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0601 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0602 EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-18;
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 1999;
Eff. August 1, 2000;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.

SECTION .0700 – ESTHETICIAN TEACHER EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 14N .0701 EXAMINATION - THEORY SECTION
21 NCAC 14N .0702 EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL SECTION

History Note: Authority G.S. 88B-4; 88B-11;
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 1999;
Eff. August 1, 2000;
Repealed Eff. January 1, 2006.