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Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Cosmetology



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Licensees, below are frequently asked questions that Board staff receive during renewals. This to help answer those questions and to prepare you for the upcoming renewal. If you have additional questions, please contact the Board at BoardInfo@llr.sc.gov or call at 803-896-4588.

Q: When do renewals open for the 2027-2029 renewal period?

A: Renewals will open December 1, 2026 and end at 11:59pm on March 10, 2027.

Q: What is the cost to renew my license?

A: Registered Cosmetologist, Estheticians, Nail Technicians is \$52; Instructors is \$82.

Q: When can I take my continuing education (CE) course for 2027-2029 renewal cycle?

A: You may take your course at any time between now and until 11:59pm on March 10, 2027 for it to count for the 2025-2027 renewal cycle and not be considered late.

Q: I logged in and it states that I have nothing to renew?

A: Ensure you are logged into the correct account. Many licensees saved their login and password when they renewed their salon, school, or booth renter license. This may be the incorrect account access to renew your individual license.

Q: Do I take the CE course in-person or online?

A: CE courses are offered both in-person and online. It is up to the licensee as to what course and method they choose to take. The list of Board-approved in-person and online courses are provided on the [Board's website](#) for licensees and instructors.

Q: What type of CE course am I required to take for my license type?

A: Instructors are required to take an instructor CE course. These courses are based on instructing students. Licensees are required to take CE courses that are based on safety and sanitation.

Q: How long does it take for my CE course to report to LLR?

A: The CE Providers have 10 business days to report your CE course to the University of South Carolina (USC). USC then has 5 business days to report it to LLR. Because of the time for processing, the Board may not receive information regarding CE courses taken after February 15, 2027 prior to the March 10, 2027 renewal deadline.

*(**USC will be closed the last 2-weeks of December 2026. All CE courses will be processed once they have returned to the office)*

- Q:** The CE Provider will submit all my paperwork to renew my license, including my renewal application and renewal fee to LLR, correct?
- A:** **NO**, it is the responsibility of the licensee to complete their CE course **AND** complete, submit and pay their renewal fee to LLR. Completing your CE course does **NOT** complete your renewal.
- Q:** What if the renewal period is about to close and I have completed my CE course, but the hours have not been reported to USC or to the Board?
- A:** If your CE hours have not been processed prior to the March 10, 2027 deadline, you must submit a paper application. Renewal applications received or postmarked after March 10, 2027 will not be accepted and reinstatement of the license will be required.
- Q:** If I do not complete my CE course in time to renew online, what do I need to do?
- A:** If you have not completed your CE course before February 15, 2027, it is strongly suggested that you submit a paper renewal application with fee. The post mark date **MUST** be on or before March 10, 2027 to be considered a renewal and NOT a reinstatement.
- Q:** At what point will my license be switched to “Lapsed” status?
- A:** Licenses not renewed by March 11, 2027, will be switched to lapsed status. Licensees not completing renewal requirements until the last moment may have a delay in renewing your license due to the high volume of renewal applications. This could result in your license temporarily being in lapsed status, until it is verified that you have complied with all renewal requirements. Licensees are therefore **STRONGLY** encouraged to complete ALL renewal requirements and renew their license early.
- Q:** I became licensed by examination or licensed by endorsement for the 2025-2027 renewal period. Will I be required to complete a CE course in order to renew my license?
- A:** No, if this is your first time renewing your license; either by examination or by endorsement, you will not be required to take a CE course for this renewal cycle. You WILL be required to complete a CE for the 2029-2031 renewal cycle.
- Q:** I am 50 years old or 60 years old, that means I'm automatically exempt from taking CE courses, correct?
- A:** No, you must apply for [CE exemption](#). Board staff will review your licensure and follow [SC Code of Laws § 40-13-250\(A\)](#): *A person who has held a license for at least fifteen consecutive years and is sixty years of age or older or who has held continuous licensure for at least thirty years, is fifty years of age, and who has not been disciplined by the board is exempt from taking continuing education courses.*
- Q:** My license lapsed on March 10, 2025. Can I renew my license at this time? How many CE courses do I need to take?
- A:** If your license has lapsed on March 10, 2025, you will not be able to renew. You will be required to submit a reinstatement application and pay the reinstatement fee. You are required to complete (1) 4-hour CE course for the 2025-2027 renewal cycle and (1) 4-

hour CE course for the 2027-2029 renewal cycle. The two CE courses must be taken from two different CE Providers.

Q: If it has been 3-years or more since my license has lapsed, can I reinstate my license at this time?

A: If your license has lapsed for 3 or more years, you will be required to take and pass the NIC theory and NIC practical examinations. [SC Code of Laws § 40-13-250\(C\)](#): *If a license has been expired for more than three years, the board shall conduct reexamination of the applicant before issuing a new license. The examination may include practical demonstrations and written tests that the board determines to be necessary.*

Q: If I have an instructor's license, am I required to keep my individual license?

A: NO, if you have an instructor's license, you are not required to keep your individual license (example: Instructor Registered Cosmetologist is NOT required to keep the Registered Cosmetologist license)

***IRC – May teach registered cosmetology, esthetics & nail technology; IES – May teach esthetics ONLY; INT – May teach nail technology ONLY