



South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Cosmetology

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**Credential Evaluation Services and Qualifications for Licensure**

*All education transcripts (high school and cosmetology-related) for foreign educated applicants not currently licensed in the United States or territorial possession of the United States must be evaluated PRIOR to being authorized for the NIC examination (theory and practical).*

Please see below for the two board-approved credential evaluation services:

- Josef Silny & Associates, Inc. – [jsilny.org](http://jsilny.org)
- International Education Research Foundation Inc. - <https://ierf.org/>

**SECTION 40-13-230.** Qualifications for licensure; cosmetologist; esthetician; nail technician.

(A) A license as a cosmetologist must be issued by the board to a person who:

- (1) is at least sixteen years of age and possesses at least a tenth grade education or the equivalent as established by tests used in the public schools or tests approved by the board;
- (2) has completed at least one thousand five hundred hours in classes in cosmetology in a reliable school approved by the board or is a registered master hair care specialist pursuant to Chapter 7 who has satisfied educational requirements established by the board in regulation; and
- (3) has passed the examination prescribed by the board and pays the required fee.

(B) A license as an esthetician must be issued by the board to a person who:

- (1) is at least sixteen years of age and possesses at least a tenth grade education or the equivalent as established by tests used in the public schools or tests approved by the board;
- (2) has completed at least four hundred fifty hours in classes in skin care in a reliable school approved by the board or comparable training approved by the board; and
- (3) has passed the examination prescribed by the board and pays the required fee.

(C) A license as a nail technician must be issued by the board to a person who:

- (1) is at least sixteen years of age and possesses at least a tenth grade education or the equivalent as established by tests used in the public schools or tests approved by the board;
- (2) has completed at least three hundred hours in classes in a reliable nail technician school approved by the board or comparable training approved by the board; and
- (3) has passed the examination prescribed by the board and pays the required fee.