

Program	Contact	Date Updated
Cosmetology and Esthetics	BreAnne Walker, Associate Dean (704) 748-5255 Walker.breanne@gaston.edu	August 11, 2026

State	Meets state educational requirements for licensure or certification	Does not meet state educational requirements for licensure or certification	Undetermined	State	Meets state educational requirements for licensure or certification	Does not meet state educational requirements for licensure or certification	Undetermined
Alabama	X			Nebraska		X	
Alaska		X		Nevada	X		
American Samoa	X			New Hampshire	X		
Arizona		X		New Jersey	X		
Arkansas	X			New Mexico		X	
California		X		New York	X		
Colorado	X			North Carolina	X		
Connecticut	X			North Dakota	X		
Delaware	X			Northern Mariana Islands	X		
Florida	X			Ohio	X		
Georgia	X			Oklahoma	X		
Guam	X			Oregon	X		
Hawaii		X		Pennsylvania	X		
Idaho		X		Puerto Rico	X		
Illinois	X			Rhode Island	X		
Indiana	X			South Carolina	X		
Iowa		X		South Dakota	X		
Kansas		X		Tennessee	X		
Kentucky	X			Texas	X		
Louisiana	X			US Virgin Islands	X		
Maine	X			Utah	X		
Maryland	X			Vermont	X		
Massachusetts	X			Virginia	X		
Michigan	X			Washington		X	
Minnesota	X			West Virginia	X		
Mississippi	X			Wisconsin		X	
Missouri	X			Wyoming		X	
Montana	X						

Comments: A person can request Reciprocity into another state with a current NC COS or Esthetics license. Some states may require 1-3 years of work experience.

Cosmetology and Esthetics licensure requirements vary by state and other individual factors; credentials, training, job experience, criminal history, and military experience. Student applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- ***Alaska**- Will accept 1,500 hours with one year of full-time employment.
- ***American Samoa**- Must have 3 out of the last 5 years of experience in the industry.
- ***Arizona**- Needs one year of practice in the current state.
- ***Arkansas**- Must have 1 year of experience in the state currently licensed.
- ***California**- Must have a current cosmetology license.
- ***Hawaii**- 1800 hours required. If your state requires fewer hours, then you must have 1 year of experience in the industry.
- ***Idaho**-The holder of a current license in another state may also be eligible for licensure by endorsement if an applicant either: holds a current license from another state whose standards are not less than Idaho (1600 hours), or the applicant holds a current license from another state and has met work experience requirements of at least one year of actual practice under certification or licensure in the three years immediately before the application in the profession for which the license is being sought.
- ***Louisiana**- Reciprocity to those states that use the NIC (National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology) test.
- ***Minnesota**- May need work experience from previous state.
- ***Nebraska**- Need work experience if you attended a school with less than 1800 hours.
- ***Pennsylvania**- Must have 2 years of experience in the industry.
- ***Puerto Rico**- Applicant must hold a license for at least 1 year.
- ***U.S. Virgin Islands**- May need to take PSI testing or have 2 years of work experience in the industry.
- ***Washington**- May need work experience or return to school for additional hours.
- ***West Virginia**-Accepts the training provided in other states if the state uses the NIC examination for licensure.
- ***Wyoming**- Will need at least 1 year of work experience in the industry or additional schooling to meet required hours.

For state agency contacts for cosmetology, visit the [Associated Hair Professionals State Board Requirements](#). Students may contact these offices with questions related to transferability of credentials between states.