Phone: 855-834-8744
E-mail: examschedule@psionline.com
https://test-takers.psiexams.com/ilcos

ILLINOIS COSMETOLOGY EXAMINATIONS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

The examinations are required for professional licensure by Illinois law to certify that each cosmetologist, barber, esthetician, manicurist and/or educator is familiar with practices, rules and regulations that will protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Copies of the Act are available from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) on their website at https://idfpr.illinois.gov/.

TEST VALIDITY

The test content outline is prepared and is periodically updated by committees of professionals who are subject matter experts in Cosmetology, Barber, Esthetician, Manicurist and/or Educator; Cosmetology, Barber, Esthetician, Manicurist and/or Educator instruction; or regulatory issues. The test content outline identifies areas of importance to licensees for them to perform their duties on the public in a competent and in a safe and responsible manner. The content outline lists topics that are on the test and the number of questions for each topic. We advise test takers not to schedule a test until they are familiar with the topics on the outline.

APPLY ONLINE

Complete the application online at www.continentaltesting.net and submit all required transcripts and related documents. An application is not complete until it includes a valid email address and all fees have been paid. Credit card payment is available as part of the online application. Each approved candidate receives an email from PSI that provides instructions to schedule a testing appointment.

TESTS IN FIVE LANGUAGES

The examinations are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Simplified Chinese. Each person must select their preferred form of the test on their application. If you need to change the language please contact CTS: Barber & Barber Teacher - barbering@continentaltesting.net; Cosmetologist & Cosmetologist Teacher - cosmetology@continentaltesting.net; Esthetician & Esthetics Teacher - esthetics@continentaltesting.net; Nail Technician & Nail Technology Teacher - nailtechnology@continentaltesting.net.

PRETEST ITEMS

In addition to the number of test questions specified in the "Test Content Outline", a small number of "experimental questions" may be administered to test takers during the tests. There are typically at least five (5) experimental questions on a test. The results of these questions are not included in the final test takers score. Administration of such unscored experimental questions is an essential step in developing future PSI tests.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

A request for reasonable accommodations with appropriate documentation is required before reasonable accommodations can be provided. The form to make this request can be found here: https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/reasonable-accommodations-request-form.pdf. Please submit your ADA supporting documents to the following email addresses: ada@continentaltesting.net and FPR.EEO@illinois.gov. The email ada@continentaltesting.net is for ADA documents ONLY. CTS will not accept any other supporting documents at this email address.

Once approved by CTS, the information will be sent to PSI. Your PSI account will be blocked, and you must schedule thru the PSI Examination Accommodation Department (800) 367-1565 ext 6750. Scheduling processing may take up to two (2) weeks prior to the desired test date.

SCHEDULING

After CTS approves your application, you can schedule a test date at one of the approved PSI Test Centers by using PSI's online system at https://test-takers.psiexams.com/ilcos or by calling PSI at 855-834-8744. All regular testing appointments must be scheduled at least two business days prior to the desired test date.

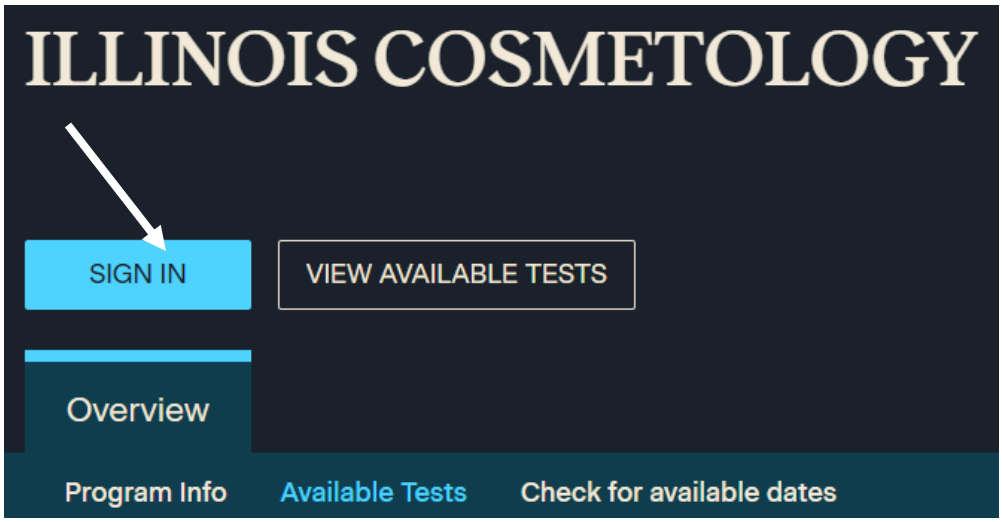
You must complete your test within 60 days after CTS approves your application.

Click here for a video of the Test Center Experience

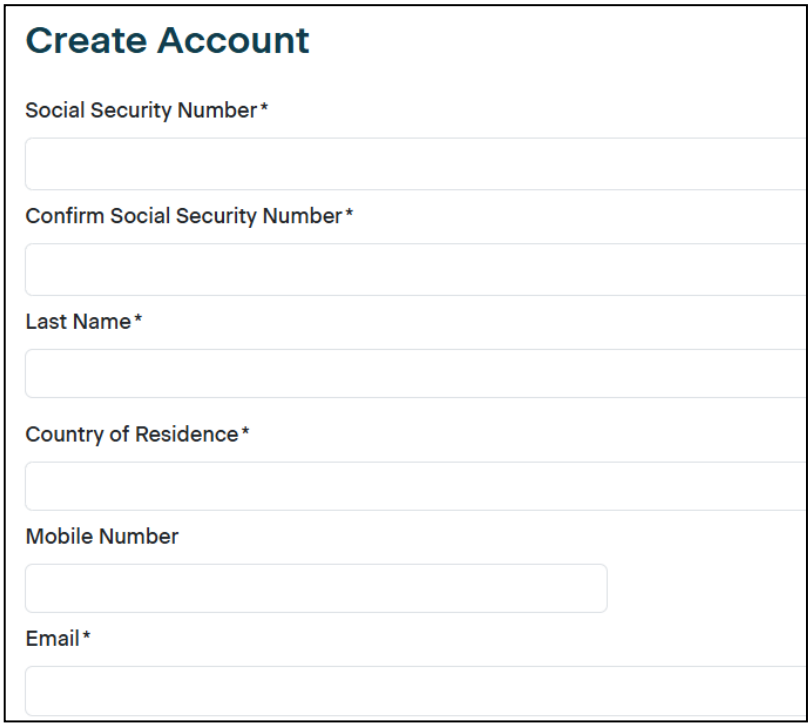
EXAMINATION SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

INTERNET SCHEDULING

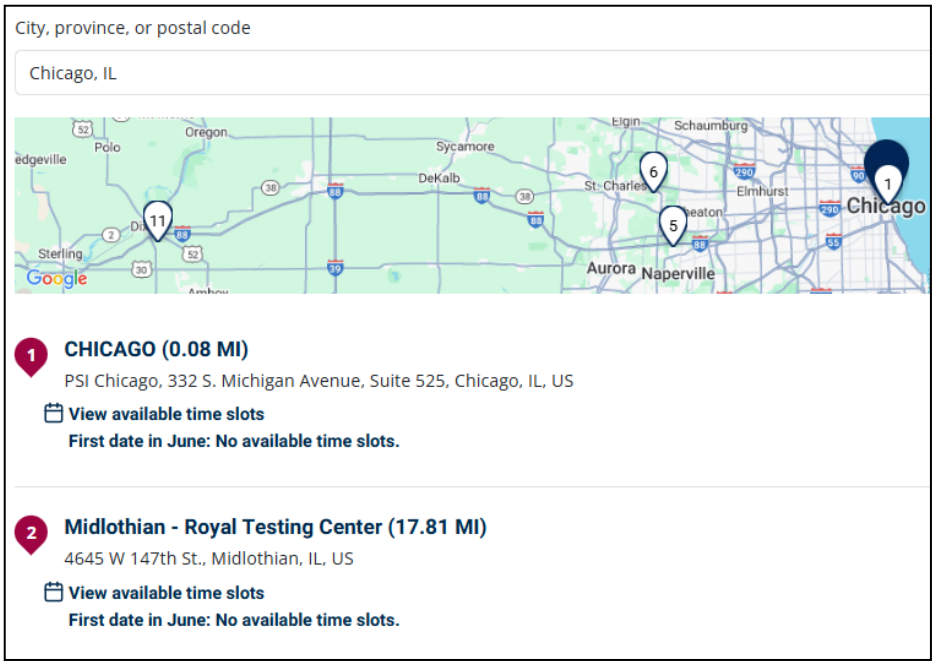
1. Go to: https://test-takers.psiexams.com/ilcos
2. Select SIGN IN then CREATE ACCOUNT to create an account.



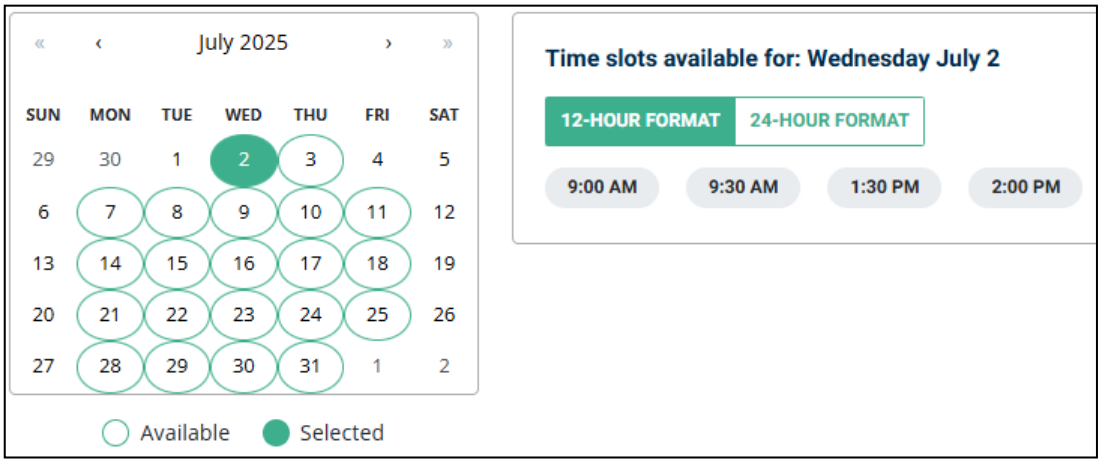
3. You will be prompted to CREATE AN ACCOUNT with PSI.
   The first and last name must match exactly with your current, valid, government-issued ID.



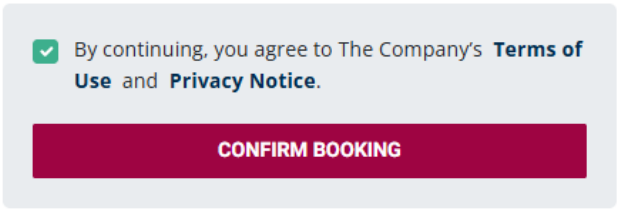
1. Enter the “City or Postal Code” and select **FIND.**



2. Select the test site, then select a date and time to book an appointment.



3. Confirm Booking and you will get an email confirmation.



Thank you for booking your exam with our *test taker portal*. Your exam appointment is confirmed. Please take a moment to review this email for important information about youre exam.

Here are the details of your confirmed appointment:

Exam: IL Cosmetology Examination - English (English)
Date: July 23, 2025
Start: 13:30:00 America/Chicago
Duration: 120 minutes
Location: CHICAGO
PSI Chicago
Chicago, IL 60604 US

DIRECTIONS:
To allow for a timely check-in, arrive 30 minutes prior to your exam start time. Take US-41S which becomes I-94E. Take the W Jackson Blvd exit (51F). Turn left on W Jackson Blvd. Turn right on S Michigan Ave.

TELEPHONE REGISTRATION

For telephone scheduling, call 855-834-8744, and speak to a PSI registrar Monday through Friday between 6:30 am and 9:00 pm, and Saturday-Sunday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Central Time.

RESCHEDULING/CANCELING AN EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

You may cancel and reschedule an examination appointment without forfeiting your fee if your *cancellation notice is received 2 days before the scheduled examination date*. For example, for a Monday appointment, the cancellation notice would need to be received on the previous Saturday. You may call PSI at 855-834-8744.

Note: A voicemail or email message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the PSI Website or call PSI to speak directly to a Customer Service Representative.

MISSED APPOINTMENT OR LATE CANCELLATION

If you miss your appointment, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled, further you will forfeit your examination fee, if you:

- Do not cancel your appointment 2 days before the scheduled examination date;
- Do not appear for your examination appointment;
- Are not checked in by your scheduled start time;
- Do not present proper identification during check-in for the examination.

EXAMINATION TEST CENTER CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY

If severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination center on a scheduled examination date, your examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact you in this situation. However, you may check the status of your examination appointment online at https://test-takers.psiexams.com/nmins or by calling 855-834-8744. Every effort will be made to reschedule your examination at a convenient time as soon as possible. You will not be penalized. Your exam will be rescheduled at no additional charge to you.

EXAMINATION SITE LOCATIONS

BLOOMINGTON Sales Consultants of Bloomington, Inc 513 E. Locust St Bloomington, IL 61701 US	**GALESBURG** Carl Sandburg College 2400 Tom L Wilson Blvd, Building A, Office A051 Galesburg, IL 61401 US
CARBONDALE Southern Illinois University 605 Agriculture Drive MC 4722 Room 781, 7th Floor Carbondale, IL 62901 US	**JOLIET** TRMA Safety Center 1615 W. Jefferson Street Joliet, IL 60435
CHAMPAIGN Parkland College 2400 W Bradley Ave, U203 Champaign, IL 61821 US	**LAKE-IN-THE-HILLS** Blue Skies Pilot Shop 8411 Pyott Road, Suite 106 Lake-In-The-Hills Airport Lake-In-The-Hills, IL 60156 US
CHICAGO PSI Chicago 332 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60604 US	**MIDLOTHIAN** Royal Testing Center 4645 W 147th St. Midlothian, IL 60445 US
COLLINSVILLE TEKSOLV 100 Lanter Ct Collinsville, IL 62234 US	**SCHAUMBURG** IT Expert System 951 N Plum Grove Rd , Suite A Schaumburg, IL 60173 US
DIXON Sauk Valley Community College 173, IL Rte 2 Dixon, IL 61021	**SPRINGFIELD** 2050 W. Iles Ave, Suite D Springfield, IL 62704

ELGIN	WEST CHICAGO
Training Institute of Elgin 620 Wing Street, Suite 9 Elgin, IL 60123 US	Illinois Aviation Academy 32 W 751 Tower Rd West Chicago, IL 60185 US

REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION TEST CENTER

YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE OF THESE FORMS OF ID. ALL CANDIDATE IDS ARE SUBJECT TO SECURITY SCREENING TO VERIFY THEIR AUTHENTICITY.

- A valid US Driver's License or State ID issued by one of the 50 states or US Territories.
- A valid US Passport or Military Active Duty ID
- A valid consular ID
- A paper driver's license along with the expired Driver's License

All candidates must agree to abide by PSI Test Center Rules:

- Video monitoring of each candidate occurs throughout the test.
- Video tapes may be reviewed if suspicious behavior occurs during a test.
- Name and address on the candidate ID must match the CTS application and PSI candidate registration records.
- **ALL NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CTS IN WRITING AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE TESTING APPOINTMENT.**

No candidate may take this test if he/she:

- Does not present required photo ID when asked
- Refuses to sign the PSI Examinee Agreement
- Does not follow all PSI Test Center rules
- Tries to use prohibited items, including but not limited to books, notes, cell phones, cameras, pagers or other electronic devices during a test
- Gives or receives help during a test or test breaks
- Tries to record or copy any test questions
- Fails to follow PSI Test Center staff instructions
- Disrupts testing for other candidates

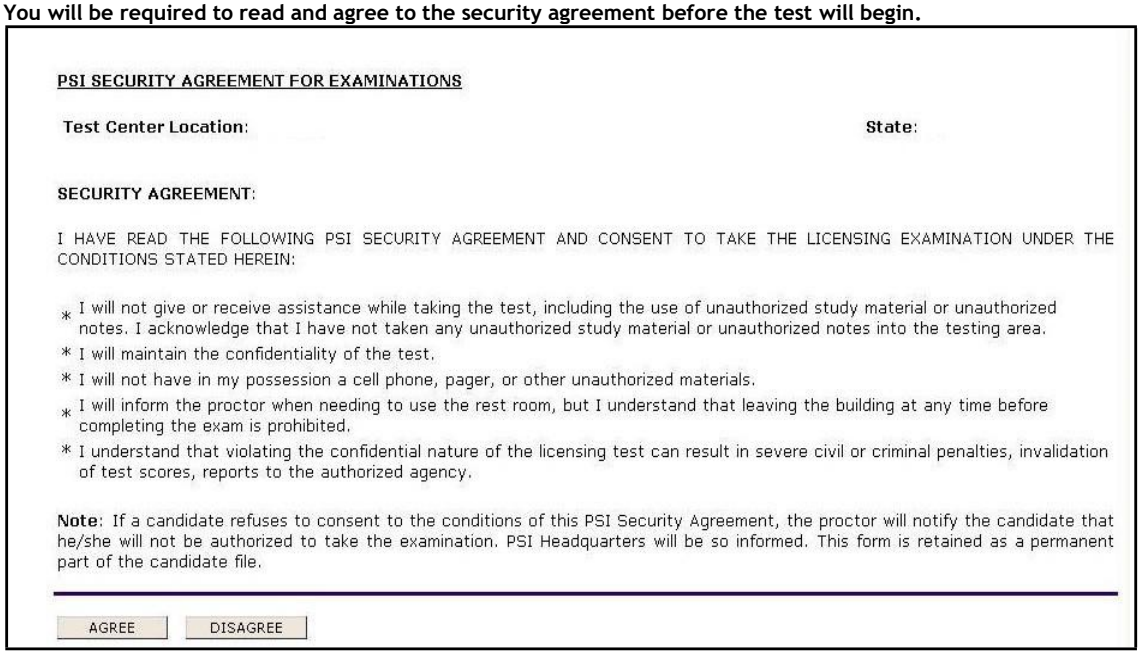
Test Center check-in procedures include:

- Cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices are **NOT PERMITTED** in the testing room.
- Personal items (purses, coats, etc.) MUST be secured outside the testing room.
- A digital photograph and a digital fingerprint will be taken during check-in.
- Candidates must sign in and out of the test center for all personal breaks during testing.
- The test timer continues during any candidate's personal breaks.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION BY COMPUTER

The examination will be administered via computer. You will be using a mouse and computer keyboard.

You will be required to read and agree to the security agreement before the test will begin.



PSI SECURITY AGREEMENT FOR EXAMINATIONS

Test Center Location: **State:**

SECURITY AGREEMENT:

I HAVE READ THE FOLLOWING PSI SECURITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT TO TAKE THE LICENSING EXAMINATION UNDER THE CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN:

* I will not give or receive assistance while taking the test, including the use of unauthorized study material or unauthorized notes. I acknowledge that I have not taken any unauthorized study material or unauthorized notes into the testing area.
* I will maintain the confidentiality of the test.
* I will not have in my possession a cell phone, pager, or other unauthorized materials.
* I will inform the proctor when needing to use the rest room, but I understand that leaving the building at any time before completing the exam is prohibited.
* I understand that violating the confidential nature of the licensing test can result in severe civil or criminal penalties, invalidation of test scores, reports to the authorized agency.

Note: If a candidate refuses to consent to the conditions of this PSI Security Agreement, the proctor will notify the candidate that he/she will not be authorized to take the examination. PSI Headquarters will be so informed. This form is retained as a permanent part of the candidate file.

AGREE DISAGREE

You will be asked to confirm your name, social security number and the examination for which you are registered before you can begin.

Before you start your examination, an introductory tutorial to the computer and keyboard will be available on the computer screen. The time you spend on this tutorial DOES NOT count as part of your examination time. Candidates may repeat the tutorial as many times as they like until they are ready to start the test.

Click here for the Tutorial in English

Click here for the Tutorial in Spanish

Click here for the Tutorial in Simplified Chinese

Click here for the Tutorial in Korean

Click here for the Tutorial in Vietnamese

SCORE REPORTING

Your score will be displayed on screen at the end of the examination. Candidates will receive an unofficial score report before they leave the PSI Test Center. All candidates will receive their official score reports from CTS one to two weeks after their test date. Candidates who pass will receive an application to apply for licensure with their CTS score report. Candidates who fail will receive a diagnostic report in their CTS score report indicating content areas in which they need to improve their scores.

Candidates who achieve a score of 75 or higher receive a preliminary report at the test center. An official CTS letter will confirm the candidate's test results and provide further instructions for obtaining a license.

Candidates who achieve a score below 75 will receive a preliminary report at the test center. An official CTS letter will confirm their test results and provide further instructions about scheduling future attempts.

EXAMINATION CONTENT AND RECOMMENDED STUDY MATERIALS

This examination is based on recommendations from licensed cosmetology teachers throughout Illinois. Content areas on the test are outlined below.

Cosmetologist Theory Exam General Portion 110 Questions (100 scored, 10 pretest) 2 hours (120 minutes)		
Topic Name	**Weight**	**Items**
I. Safety and Infection Control	30%	30
A) Workplace Infection Control Procedures		
1. Infectious diseases, pathogens, and exposure prevention		
2. Methods and procedures for cleaning and disinfection		
a. Contaminated tools		
b. Machines and equipment		
c. Daily workstation		
3. Levels of decontamination (i.e., cleaning, disinfection, sterilization)		
4. Procedures for exposure incidents (e.g., Standard/Universal Precautions, OSHA, CDC)		
5. Products to be used for cleaning and disinfecting		
6. Labeling and storage of cleaned and disinfected tools and equipment		
7. Single- and multi-use items and materials		
B) Workplace Safety Precautions		
1. Procedures for maintaining safe working conditions		
2. Safe water temperature		
3. Safe use of equipment and maintenance procedures		
4. Labeling and storage of materials and chemicals		
5. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and prohibited materials and substances		
6. Federal safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, EPA, FDA)		
7. Identifying adverse reactions to chemicals		
8. Protective chemical barriers and draping for clients		
9. Proper ventilation		
10. Electrical safety		
II. Client Consultation and Hair, Skin, and Nail Analysis	19%	19
A) Client Consultation		
1. Client intake and consent form procedures to determine possible contraindications		
2. Declining or altering service based on contraindications		
3. Recommendation client seek a medical opinion		
B) Hair, Skin, and Nail		
1. Hair, skin, and nail structure		
2. Hair, skin, and nail analysis		
3. Selection of appropriate services based on condition of hair, skin, and nails		
C) Adverse Reactions, Diseases, Contraindications		
1. Allergic reaction (patch) test procedures		
2. Hair and scalp diseases and disorders		
3. Skin diseases and disorders		

4. Nail diseases and disorders		
5. Signs of adverse reactions to products during and after service		
6. Contraindications to manicure and pedicure services		
7. Contraindications to nail enhancement services		
III. Hairstyling	2%	2
A) Hairstyling Procedures		
1. Procedures for textured hairstyling		
a. Hair extension application, maintenance, removal		
b. Locking		
c. Braiding		
2. Procedures for hair additions, replacements, and enhancements		
a. Hair piece application, maintenance, removal		
3. Blowdrying procedures		
4. Thermal curling procedures		
B) Hairstyling Tools		
1. Precautions for use of thermal styling tools (e.g., testing temperature, protecting scalp)		
IV. Haircutting	3%	3
A) Haircutting Procedures		
1. Procedures for cutting different hair types (e.g., straight, curly, over-curly, and wavy)		
B) Tool and Implement Safety		
1. Safe use of haircutting tools and implements (e.g., shears, razors, clippers, and trimmers)		
V. Haircoloring	10%	10
A) Application		
1. Application of haircoloring chemicals for all hair types		
2. Purpose and procedure of strand testing		
3. Hair and scalp preparation		
4. Application of haircoloring chemicals to facial hair (e.g., eyebrows, eyelashes)		
B) Safe Use of Chemicals and Products		
1. Hair chemical mixing and safety		
2. Application procedures and safe use of color (e.g., overprocessed hair, metallic or compound dyes, minerals)		
3. Application procedures and safe use of lightening products		
4. Color theory, formulating, and products		
VI. Chemical Texture Services	12%	12
A) Virgin Hair		
1. Safe application and removal for virgin hair (e.g., chemical relaxer, chemical texturing products, permanent waving products)		
B) Chemically Treated Hair		
1. Safe application and removal for chemically treated hair (e.g., chemical relaxer, chemical texturing products, permanent waving products)		
C) Chemical Safety, Products, and Results		
1. Assessing chemical process results		
2. Safe use of chemical texturing products		
3. Precautions for chemical hair texturing		
VII. Skin Care	4%	4
A) Massage		

1. Safe facial massage movements		
2. Safe manicure and pedicure massage movements		
B) Preparation, Products, and Services		
1. Preparing client for skin care services		
2. Use of different skin care products		
3. Scalp care treatments		
C) Skin Care Safety		
1. Safe procedures for performing facial services		
2. Safe procedures for chemical and mechanical exfoliation		
3. Safe use of skin care tools, machines, and devices		
4. Safe application and removal of hot towels		
5. Safe product use and application for all skin conditions		
6. Safe removal of calluses		
VIII. Eyelash and Eyebrow	4%	4
A) Eyelash and Eyebrow Safety		
1. Safe application and removal of eyelash enhancements		
2. Safe application procedures for chemical eyelash services		
B) Products and Procedures		
1. Safe use of eyebrow and eyelash tinting products		
2. Safety procedures for artificial eyelash adhesive and remover products		
IX. Hair Removal	8%	8
A) Hair Removal Safety		
1. Safe hair removal using depilatories, waxing, and sugaring		
2. Safe hair removal using tweezing and threading		
3. Tools, supplies, and products for hair removal		
B) Infection Control (e.g., cross-contamination, wearing gloves)		
C) Contraindications to Hair Removal Services		
X. Nail Care	8%	8
A) Nail Safety		
1. Safe use of nail products, tools, and equipment		
2. Safe filing and buffing of nails		
3. Safe cuticle removal		
4. Safe manicure and pedicure procedures		
B) Nail Workstation and Environment		
1. Nail station ventilation (e.g., particulate matter control)		
2. Nail infection control procedures (e.g., closing multi-use containers while clipping and filing, clean files and buffers)		
C) Nail Enhancements		
1. Natural nail products, procedures, and repair		
2. Artificial nail enhancement products, application, maintenance, and repair		
3. Artificial nail removal		

Recommended Study Materials

Questions in this examination are supported by the following references.

Milady Standard Foundations, 1st Edition, 2020, Publisher: Milady Publishing Company
Website: www.milady.com

Milady Standard Cosmetology, 14th Edition, 2023, Publisher: Milady Publishing Company
Website: www.milady.com

Fundamentals: Cosmetology, 2nd Edition, 2023, Publisher: Pivot Point International, Inc, Website: www.pivot-point.com

Barber Theory Exam General Portion 95 Questions (85 scored, 10 pretest) 2 hours (120 minutes)		
Topic Name	**Weight**	**Items**
I. Safety and Infection Control	31%	26
A) Workplace Infection Control Procedures		
1. Infectious diseases, pathogens, and exposure prevention		
2. Methods and procedures for cleaning and disinfection		
a. Contaminated tools		
b. Machines and equipment		
c. Daily workstation		
3. Levels of decontamination (i.e., cleaning, disinfection, sterilization)		
4. Procedures for exposure incidents (e.g., Standard/Universal Precautions, OSHA, CDC)		
5. Products to be used for cleaning and disinfecting		
6. Labeling and storage of cleaned and disinfected tools and equipment		
7. Single- and multi-use items and materials		
B) Workplace Safety Precautions		
1. Procedures for maintaining safe working conditions		
2. Safe water temperature		
3. Safe use of equipment and maintenance procedures		
4. Labeling and storage of materials and chemicals		
5. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and prohibited materials and substances		
6. Federal safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, EPA, FDA)		
7. Identifying adverse reactions to chemicals		
8. Protective chemical barriers and draping for clients		
9. Proper ventilation		
10. Electrical safety		
II. Client Consultation and Hair and Skin Analysis	15%	13
A) Client Consultation		
1. Client intake and consent form procedures to determine possible contraindications		
2. Declining or altering service based on contraindications		
3. Recommendation client seek a medical opinion		
B) Hair and Skin		
1. Hair and skin structure		
2. Hair and skin analysis		
3. Selection of appropriate services based on condition of hair and skin		
C) Adverse Reactions, Diseases, Contraindications		
1. Allergic reaction (patch) test procedures		
2. Hair and scalp diseases and disorders		
3. Skin diseases and disorders		
4. Signs of adverse reactions to products during and after service		

III. Hairstyling	5%	4
A) Hairstyling Procedures		
1. Procedures for textured hairstyling		
a. Hair extension application, maintenance, removal		
b. Locking		
c. Braiding		
2. Procedures for hair additions, replacements, and enhancements		
a. Hair piece application, maintenance, removal		
3. Blowdrying procedures		
4. Thermal curling procedures		
B) Hairstyling Tools		
1. Precautions for use of thermal styling tools (e.g., testing temperature, protecting scalp)		
IV. Haircutting	8%	7
A) Haircutting Procedures		
1. Procedures for cutting different hair types (e.g., straight, curly, over-curly, and wavy)		
B) Tool and Implement Safety		
1. Safe use of haircutting tools and implements (e.g., shears, razors, clippers, and trimmers)		
V. Haircoloring	7%	6
A) Application		
1. Application of haircoloring chemicals for all hair types		
2. Purpose and procedure of strand testing		
3. Hair and scalp preparation		
4. Application of haircoloring chemicals to facial hair (e.g., eyebrows, mustache, beard)		
B) Safe Use of Chemicals and Products		
1. Hair chemical mixing and safety		
2. Application procedures and safe use of color (e.g., overprocessed hair, metallic or compound dyes, minerals)		
3. Application procedures and safe use of lightening products		
4. Color theory, formulating, and products		
VI. Chemical Texture Services	7%	6
A) Virgin Hair		
1. Safe application and removal for virgin hair (e.g., chemical relaxer, chemical texturing products, permanent waving products)		
B) Chemically Treated Hair		
1. Safe application and removal for chemically treated hair (e.g., chemical relaxer, chemical texturing products, permanent waving products)		
C) Chemical Safety, Products, and Results		
1. Assessing chemical process results		
2. Safe use of chemical texturing products		
3. Precautions for chemical hair texturing		
VII. Skin Care	5%	4
A) Massage		
1. Safe facial massage movements		
B) Preparation, Products, and Services		
1. Preparing client for skin care services		
2. Use of different skin care products		

3. Scalp care treatments		
C) Skin Care Safety		
1. Safe procedures for performing cleansing facials		
2. Safe procedures for chemical and mechanical exfoliation		
3. Safe use of skin care tools, machines, and devices		
4. Safe application and removal of hot towels		
5. Safe product use and application for all skin conditions		
VIII. Shaving	22%	19
A) Shaving Safety		
1. Contraindications of shaving		
2. Shaving different facial hair types and textures		
3. Safe shaving procedures (i.e., stretching the skin and direction of the stroke)		
4. Safe razor handling		
5. Safe shaving around the mouth and ears		
B) Shaving Products and Strokes		
1. Shaving products and application (e.g., lather, bracer)		
2. Freehand, backhand, reverse freehand and reverse backhand shaving strokes		
C) Shaving Tools and Equipment		
1. Safe use of shaving tools and equipment		
2. Maintenance of shaving tools and equipment		
3. Blade disposal		

Recommended Study Materials

Questions in this examination are supported by the following references.

Milady's Standard Professional Barbering, 7th Edition, 2026, printed 2025, Publisher: Milady Publishing Company
Website: www.milady.com

Pivot Point Fundamentals Barbering, 1st Edition, 2022, Publisher: Pivot Point International
Website: www.pivot-point.com

Esthetician Theory Exam General Portion 85 Questions (75 scored, 10 pretest) 1.5 hours (90 minutes)		
Topic Name	**Weight**	**Items**
I. Safety and Infection Control	40%	30
A) Workplace Infection Control Procedures		
1. Infectious diseases, pathogens, and exposure prevention		
2. Methods and procedures for cleaning and disinfection		
a. Contaminated tools		
b. Machines and equipment		
c. Daily workstation		
3. Levels of decontamination (i.e., cleaning, disinfection, sterilization)		
4. Procedures for exposure incidents (e.g., Standard/Universal Precautions, OSHA, CDC)		
5. Products to be used for cleaning and disinfecting		
6. Labeling and storage of cleaned and disinfected tools and equipment		
7. Single- and multi-use items and materials		

B) Workplace Safety Precautions		
1. Procedures for maintaining safe working conditions		
2. Safe water temperature		
3. Safe use of equipment and maintenance procedures		
4. Labeling and storage of materials and chemicals		
5. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and prohibited materials and substances		
6. Federal safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, EPA, FDA)		
7. Identifying adverse reactions to chemicals		
8. Protective chemical barriers and draping for clients		
9. Proper ventilation		
10. Electrical safety		
II. Client Consultation and Skin Analysis	19%	14
A) Client Consultation		
1. Client intake and consent form procedures to determine possible contraindications		
2. Declining or altering service based on contraindications		
3. Recommendation client seek a medical opinion		
B) Skin		
1. Skin structure		
2. Skin analysis		
3. Selection of appropriate services based on condition of skin		
C) Adverse Reactions, Diseases, Contraindications		
1. Allergic reaction (patch) test procedures		
2. Skin diseases and disorders		
3. Signs of adverse reactions to products during and after service		
III. Skin Care	17%	13
A) Massage		
1. Safe facial massage movements		
B) Preparation, Products, and Services		
1. Preparing client for skin care services		
2. Use of different skin care products		
C) Skin Care Safety		
1. Safe procedures for performing facial services		
2. Safe procedures for chemical and mechanical exfoliation		
3. Safe use of skin care tools, machines, and devices		
4. Safe application and removal of hot towels		
5. Safe product use and application for all skin conditions		
IV. Makeup	3%	2
A) Makeup Safety and Hygiene		
1. Safe makeup application and removal procedures (e.g., bracing techniques)		
2. Hygienic makeup application and removal procedures (e.g., disposable applicators, artist palette)		
V. Eyelash and Eyebrow	6%	5
A) Eyelash and Eyebrow Safety		
1. Safe application and removal of eyelash enhancements		
2. Safe application procedures for chemical eyelash services		
B) Products and Procedures		

1. Safe use of eyebrow and eyelash tinting products		
2. Safety procedures for artificial eyelash adhesive and remover products		
VI. Hair Removal	15%	11
A) Hair Removal Safety		
1. Safe hair removal using waxing and sugaring		
2. Safe hair removal using tweezing and threading		
3. Tools, supplies, and products for hair removal		
B) Infection Control (e.g., cross-contamination, wearing gloves)		
C) Contraindications to Hair Removal Services		

Recommended Study Materials

Questions in this examination are supported by the following references.

Milady's Standard Esthetics + Fundamentals, 12th Edition, 2020, Publisher: Milady Publishing Company
Website: www.milady.com

Pivot Point Fundamentals Esthetics, 1st Edition, 2022, Publisher: Pivot Point International
Website: www.pivot-point.com

Nail Technician Theory Exam General Portion 65 Questions (60 scored, 5 pretest) 1.5 hours (90 minutes)		
Topic Name	**Weight**	**Items**
I. Safety and Infection Control	50%	30
A) Workplace Infection Control Procedures		
1. Infectious diseases, pathogens, and exposure prevention		
2. Methods and procedures for cleaning and disinfection		
a. Contaminated tools		
b. Machines and equipment		
c. Daily workstation		
3. Levels of decontamination (i.e., cleaning, disinfection, sterilization)		
4. Procedures for exposure incidents (e.g., Standard/Universal Precautions, OSHA, CDC)		
5. Products to be used for cleaning and disinfecting		
6. Labeling and storage of cleaned and disinfected tools and equipment		
7. Single- and multi-use items and materials		
B) Workplace Safety Precautions		
1. Procedures for maintaining safe working conditions		
2. Safe water temperature		
3. Safe use of equipment and maintenance procedures		
4. Labeling and storage of materials and chemicals		
5. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and prohibited materials and substances		
6. Federal safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, EPA, FDA)		
7. Identifying adverse reactions to chemicals		
8. Protective chemical barriers and draping for clients		
9. Proper ventilation		
10. Electrical safety		
II. Client Consultation and Nail Analysis	18%	11

A) Client Consultation		
1. Client intake and consent form procedures to determine possible contraindications		
2. Declining or altering service based on contraindications		
3. Recommendation client seek a medical opinion		
B) Skin and Nail		
1. Skin and nail structure		
2. Skin and nail analysis		
3. Selection of appropriate services based on condition of skin and nails		
C) Adverse Reactions, Diseases, Contraindications		
1. Allergic reaction (patch) test procedures		
2. Skin diseases and disorders		
3. Nail diseases and disorders		
4. Signs of adverse reactions to products during and after service		
5. Contraindications to manicure and pedicure services		
6. Contraindications to nail enhancement services		
III. Skin Care	10%	6
A) Massage		
1. Safe manicure and pedicure massage movements		
B) Skin Care Safety		
1. Safe use of skin care tools, machines, and devices		
2. Safe application and removal of hot towels		
3. Safe product use and application for all skin conditions		
4. Safe removal of calluses		
IV. Nail Care	22%	13
A) Nail Safety		
1. Safe use of nail products, tools, and equipment		
2. Safe filing and buffing of nails		
3. Safe cuticle removal		
4. Safe manicure and pedicure procedures		
B) Nail Workstation and Environment		
1. Nail station ventilation (e.g., particulate matter control)		
2. Nail infection control procedures (e.g., closing multi-use containers while clipping and filing, clean files and buffers)		
C) Nail Enhancement		
1. Natural nail products, procedures, and repair		
2. Artificial nail enhancement products, application, maintenance, and repair		
3. Artificial nail removal		

Recommended Study Materials

Questions in this examination are supported by the following references.

Milady Standard Nail Technology with Foundations, 8th Edition, 2021, Publisher: Milady Publishing Company, Website: www.milady.com

Pivot Point Fundamentals: Nails, 1st Edition, 2022, Publisher: Pivot Point International, Inc Website: www.pivot-point.com"

Tammy Taylor Nail Institute - Guide to Manicuring & Advanced Nail Technology, 2023

Teacher Theory Exam General Portion for Cosmetologist, Barber, Esthetician, and Nail Technician 55 Questions (50 scored, 5 pretest) 1.5 hours (90 minutes)		
Topic Name	**Weight**	**Items**
I. Learning and Communication	24%	12
A) Learning Theories		
1. Learner behavior in an educational setting		
2. Identifying learner ability, personality, and interests		
3. Identifying different types of learning styles (e.g., simulation, repetition, assimilation)		
4. Identifying multiple intelligences (e.g., kinesthetic, visual, audio)		
B) Communication Strategies		
1. Nonverbal communication		
2. Verbal communication		
3. Visual Media		
C) Accommodations		
II. Curriculum and Lesson Plans	10%	5
A) Curriculum Design Principles		
B) Lesson Plan Design Principles		
III. Teaching Methods	30%	15
A) Learner Instruction		
1. Learning Environments		
2. Engagement and Motivation		
B) Technology-Integrated Teaching		
1. Learning Management Systems (LMS)		
2. Distance Learning		
3. Educational aids and technology tools		
IV. Learner Evaluation and Assessment Methods	20%	10
A) Assessment		
1. Alignment with Learning Objectives		
2. Types of assessments		
a. Formative assessments		
b. Summative assessments		
B) Rubrics and Feedback		
1. Academic advisement and coaching		
2. Grading Principles		
V. Classroom Management	16%	8
A) Classroom Educator Responsibilities		
1. Maintaining educational records		
2. Educator professionalism		
3. Classroom design and management		
4. Managing learner behaviors		
5. Resources for learner mental health		
B) Classroom Safety		
1. Implementing safety procedures		

2. Potential safety hazards in the learning environment	
3. Laws and regulations	

Recommended Study Materials

Questions in this examination are supported by the following references.

Milady's Professional Educator 4th Edition, 2022 Publisher: Milady Publishing Company
Website: www.milady.com

Pivot Point Fundamentals: Mindful Teaching, 2nd Edition, 2025, Publisher: Pivot Point International, Inc
Website: www.pivot-point.com