

Q: How do I transfer my license to Virginia?

A: To obtain a license in Virginia based on holding a current valid license in another state, you must submit an [Endorsement Application and fee](#). In order to qualify for a license “by endorsement,” Board regulations require:

- A **current** license issued by a state or U.S. Territory,
- Substantially equivalent training to Virginia’s requirement (hours + content), and
- Substantially equivalent examination(s).

TO APPLY:

1. Submit a completed [Endorsement Application](#) **with the application fee**, and
2. Request the licensing authority in the state where you are currently licensed to mail a CERTIFICATION OF LICENSURE directly to the Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology.

NOTE: If you *originally* obtained licensure in a jurisdiction other than the state where you currently hold a license, an additional Certification of Licensure must come from the *original* jurisdiction where you completed your training and exams.

TRAINING & EXAM REQUIREMENTS:

Refer to the following requirements for the hours of instruction and training required to qualify for licensure.

If you qualified for your current out-of-state Cosmetology, Barber, Master Barber, Nail Technician or Wax Technician license by completing **less than 80% of the required Virginia hours**, you may be eligible to substitute five years of work experience within the United States for training.

If you qualified for your current out-of-state Esthetics or Master Esthetics license by completing **less than 80% of the required Virginia hours** you are not eligible for a license by endorsement. **Virginia does not accept the NCEA Certification for endorsement or reciprocity for Master Estheticians.**

Examination requirements for licensure by endorsement are based on the exams you previously completed in other states. Exams must have been administered by the state licensing agency. Tests administered by the school are not equivalent and may require re-examination in Virginia.

LICENSE TYPE	VIRGINIA HOURS (80%)	EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT
Cosmetology	1,000 (800)	Theory and Practical
Barber/Master Barber	750 (600)/1,000 (800)	Theory and Practical
Nail Technician	150 (120)	Theory and Practical
Wax Technician	115 (92)	Theory and Practical
Esthetics	600 (480)	Theory and Practical
Master Esthetics	600 (480)	Theory and Practical
Tattooing/Body Piercing	**	Theory
Permanent Cosmetic Tattoo	200 (160)	Theory

** For endorsement requirements for tattooing/body-piercing training, contact the Board Office at (804) 367-8509 or BCHOPlicensing@dpor.virginia.gov.