



OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

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Board of Cosmetology

Nail Technology

Nail technology is one of cosmetology's four fields of practice with barbering, esthetics and hair design. Nail technicians cut, trim, clean, polish, color or tint the natural nails on hands and feet and massage, cleanse, treat and beautify the hands, arms (below the elbow) and legs (below the knee). They also apply, sculpt and remove artificial nails.

Cosmetologists work in a variety of settings, including hair and nail salons, barbershops, day spas, health care facilities, health clubs, resorts, and in collaboration with dermatologists and plastic surgeons.



Qualifications

- **Oregon Career School Training** — Applicants must first pass courses required by the Oregon Department of Education (DOE), Private Career Schools, in the following programs offered by an Oregon licensed career school:

- * **Nail Technology:** 350 hours
- * **Safety / Infection Control:** 150 hours
- * **Career Development:** 100 hours

Training may also be obtained through a [competency-based school](#), which may not require the minimum training hours.

- * **Examinations:** Applicants must pass a state-sanctioned practical examination conducted by both hourly-based and competency-based schools and an OHLA-administered written examination.
- **Non-Oregon Career School Applicants** — Applicants credentialed in another state qualify for Oregon certification after passing the **Oregon Laws & Rules** examination. Applicants who have completed school or training in another state or country but who are not yet credentialed must provide documentation for evaluation by OHLA and approval by DOE. Approved applicants are then required to take the Oregon qualifying practical and written examinations.

Authorizing Laws & Rules

This licensing program exists under the regulatory oversight of the **Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA)** and **Board of Cosmetology**. Profession-specific statutes (ORS 690.005-235 and 690.992) and rules (OAR 817, Divisions 005-120) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/COS.