

Cosmetology

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Q&A

Implementation of National (NIC) Examination

New Written Examination Provided by NIC to Replace State Exam

Q: *When will you begin implementing the national examination?*

A: We will begin offering the national examination on May 1, 2006.

Q: *Why are you switching to a national examination?*

A: A national examination offers the following benefits:

- Support provided by professional test developers
- Enhanced examination integrity, security, validity and reliability
- Relevance to current industry practice standards
- Improved opportunity for state-to-state employment
- Use of current industry testing standards

Q: *Who is the national examination provider?*

A: The National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (NIC). The NIC examination is currently offered in 33 states, which the NIC says "...greatly enhances and facilitates decisions regarding reciprocity and endorsement." In other words, if you move to a state that also uses the NIC examination, you will more likely be able to obtain a license without having to take that state's examination or jump through any other regulatory hoops that might seem unnecessary for a qualified, experienced practitioner (who has already passed the NIC examination in Oregon).

Q: *What is the fee for the national examination?*

A: \$25 per field of practice, plus \$25 for the Oregon Laws & Rules section. The increased fee helps to cover the pass-through costs paid to NIC. In other words, we have to charge what NIC charges us to offer the examination plus our costs in implementing and maintaining the examination.

**More
Q&A
on
reverse**



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National (NIC) Examination: Questions & Answers *(continued)*

Q: *What about the practical examination? Are you also switching to a national practical?*

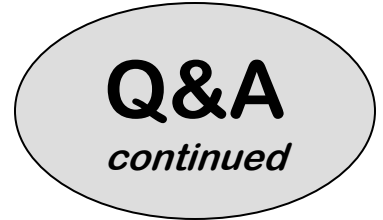
A: No. Oregon's private career schools will continue to provide the existing practical examination, which is overseen by the Oregon Department of Education, Private Career Schools, and evaluated by OHLA.

Q: *If I pass the NIC national examination, will I be able to practice in other states too?*

A: No. The NIC examination is national in scope – it's offered by multiple states – but each state has its own licensing requirements. Check with the specific state(s) in which you would like to practice to find out specific licensing requirements.

Q: *Will there be the same number of examination questions?*

A: No. Questions will increase from the current 50 to the NIC's 110 for each section except for Barbering, which increases to 60. The Oregon Laws & Rules section will continue to contain 75 questions.



Q: *How long will the new NIC national examination take?*

A: The NIC exam will take 90 minutes each section, compared to 30 minutes each section for the current exam. Oregon Laws & Rules will continue to take 60 minutes. Applicants wishing to take more than one field of practice MUST arrive at OHLA between 8-9 am. Applicants taking only one field of practice may arrive between 8-9 am or 1-2 pm.

Q: *Is the NIC national examination still based on the Pivot Point and Milady textbooks?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Will the NIC national examination review be different?*

A: Yes. We will no longer provide the correct answers to questions an applicant gets incorrect. This aligns the examination review with NIC testing standards to maintain the examination's validity.

Q: *Will the NIC national examination be offered in different languages?*

A: Yes, in Vietnamese and Spanish. However, the Oregon Laws & Rules section will be offered only in English. OHLA's interpreter-assisted program will continue, which allows applicants to hire a state-approved interpreter to read the examination questions to them in their native language. Applicants who have already scheduled an interpreter-assisted exam should keep their appointment.

Q: *Will the NIC national examination be offered at locations other than OHLA in Salem?*

A: Yes, but not initially. Remote examination sites will be implemented during the second phase of the NIC national examination implementation later in 2006.

Q: *What else should I know about the NIC national examination?*

A: NIC employs principles and procedures such as psychometrics and item response theory to ensure its examinations are finely tuned in how they are constructed and scored – and, as a result, how well they are legally defensible. Every three to five years, the NIC conducts a nationwide job analysis study to keep pace with changes in the cosmetology industry.

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