

CHAPTER 157

BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY

Referred to in §10A.104, 147.76, 256.183, 261B.11, 710A.1, 710A.2, 710A.2B, 710A.7

Enforcement, §147.87, 147.92

157.1	Definitions.	157.8	Licensing of schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences and instructors.
157.2	Prohibitions — exceptions.		
157.3	License requirements.	157.8A	Use of schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.
157.3A	License requirements — additional training.	157.9	License suspension and revocation.
157.3B	Examination information.	157.10	Course of study.
157.4	Temporary permits.	157.11	Establishment licenses.
157.4A	License and government-issued identification — peace officer request.	157.12	Supervisors.
157.4B	Announcements to the public.	157.12A	Use of laser or light products on minors.
157.5	Consent and reporting requirements.	157.12B	Threading.
157.5A	Manicurists. Repealed by 2006 Acts, ch 1184, §126.	157.12C	Blow-dry styling.
157.6	Sanitary rules — practice in the home.	157.12D	Establishment training program.
157.7	Inspectors and clerical assistants.	157.13	Violations.
		157.14	Rules.
		157.15	Penalty.

157.1 Definitions.

For purposes of [this chapter](#):

1. “*Barbering and cosmetology*” means all of the following practices performed for cosmetic purposes and not for the treatment of disease of physical or mental ailments:

a. Curling, waving, press and curl hair straightening, shampooing, cutting, singeing, bleaching, coloring, hair body processing, blow waving, hair relaxing, applying hair tonics, or similar works, upon the hair or beard of any person, or upon a wig or hairpiece when done in conjunction with haircutting or hairstyling by any means.

b. Massaging, cleansing, stimulating, exercising, or beautifying the superficial epidermis of the scalp, face, neck, arms, hands, legs, feet, or upper body of any person with the hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances or with the use of cosmetic preparations, including cleansers, toners, moisturizers, masques, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, waxes, or lotions.

c. Removing superfluous hair from the face or body of a person with the use of depilatories, wax, sugars, or tweezing.

d. Applying makeup or eyelashes, tinting of lashes or brows, or lightening of hair on the face or body.

e. Cleansing, shaping, or polishing the fingernails, applying sculptured nails, nail extensions, wraps, overlays, nail art, or any other nail technique to the fingernails or toenails of a person.

f. Shaving or trimming for hair removal by the use of a straight edge razor.

2. “*Barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences*” means any or all of the following disciplines performed with or without compensation by a licensee:

a. Barbering and cosmetology.

b. Electrology.

c. Esthetics.

d. Nail technology.

3. “*Board*” means the board of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

4. “*Certified laser product*” means a product which is certified by a manufacturer pursuant to the requirements of [21 C.F.R. pt. 1040](#) and as specified by rule.

5. “*Chemical exfoliation*” means the removal of surface epidermal cells of the skin by using only nonmedical strength cosmetic preparations consistent with labeled instructions and as specified by rule.

6. “*Cosmetologist*” or “*barber*” means a person who performs the practice of barbering

and cosmetology arts and sciences or otherwise by the person's occupation claims to have knowledge or skill particular to the practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences. Cosmetologists and barbers shall not represent themselves to the public as being primarily in the practice of haircutting unless that function is, in fact, their primary specialty.

7. "*Department*" means the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing.

8. "*Depilatory*" means an agent used for the temporary removal of superfluous hair by dissolving it at the epidermal surface.

9. "*Electrologist*" means a person who performs the practice of electrology.

10. "*Electrology*" means the removal of superfluous hair of a person by the use of an electric needle or other electronic process.

11. "*Establishment*" means a fixed location or a location that is readily movable where one or more persons engage in the practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences, including but not limited to a retail establishment.

12. "*Esthetician*" means a person who performs the practice of esthetics.

13. "*Esthetics*" means the following:

a. Beautifying, massaging, cleansing, stimulating, or hydrating the skin of a person, except the scalp, by the use of cosmetic preparations, including cleansers, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams, exfoliants, masques, and essential oils, to be applied with the hands or any device, electrical or otherwise, designed for the nonmedical care of the skin.

b. Applying makeup or eyelashes to a person, tinting eyelashes or eyebrows, or lightening hair on the body except the scalp.

c. Removing superfluous hair from the body of a person by the use of depilatories, waxing, sugaring, tweezers, or use of any certified laser products or intense pulsed light devices. This excludes threading and the practice of electrology, whereby hair is removed with an electric needle.

d. The application of permanent makeup or cosmetic micropigmentation.

14. "*Exfoliation*" means the process whereby the superficial epidermal cells are removed from the skin.

15. "*General supervision*" means the supervising physician is not on site for laser procedures or use of an intense pulsed light device for hair removal conducted on minors, but is available for direct communication, either in person or by telephone, radio, radiotelephone, television, or similar means.

16. "*Instructor*" means a person licensed for the purpose of teaching barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

17. "*Intense pulsed light device*" means a device that uses incoherent light to destroy the vein of the hair bulb.

18. "*Laser*" means light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation.

19. "*Manicuring*" means the practice of cleansing, shaping, or polishing the fingernails and massaging the hands and lower arms of a person. "*Manicuring*" does not include the application of sculptured nails or nail extensions to the fingernails or toenails of a person, and does not include the practice of pedicuring.

20. "*Manicurist*" means a person who performs the practice of manicuring.

21. "*Mechanical exfoliation*" means the physical removal of surface epidermal cells by means that include but are not limited to brushing machines, granulated scrubs, peel-off masques, peeling creams or drying preparations that are rubbed off, and microdermabrasion.

22. "*Microdermabrasion*" means mechanical exfoliation using an abrasive material or apparatus to remove surface epidermal cells with a machine which is specified by rule.

23. "*Minor*" means an unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen years.

24. "*Nail technologist*" means a person who performs the practice of nail technology.

25. "*Nail technology*" means all of the following:

a. Applying sculptured nails, nail extensions, wraps, overlays, nail art, or any other nail technique to the fingernails and toenails of a person.

b. Massaging the hands, arms, ankles, and feet of a person.

c. Removing superfluous hair from hands, arms, feet, or legs of a person by the use of wax or a tweezer.

d. Manicuring the nails of a person.

26. “Physician” means a person licensed in Iowa to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

27. “School of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences” means an establishment operated for the purpose of teaching barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b1; C39, §2585.10; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.1]

92 Acts, ch 1205, §1; 93 Acts, ch 61, §1; 2004 Acts, ch 1044, §1 – 6; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §20 – 22; 2007 Acts, ch 10, §157, 158; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §141; 2010 Acts, ch 1163, §4, 5; 2015 Acts, ch 30, §62; 2022 Acts, ch 1005, §1, 2; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1634; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §7 – 11

Referred to in §157.2, 157.3A

157.2 Prohibitions — exceptions.

1. It is unlawful for a person to practice barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences with or without compensation unless the person possesses a license issued under [section 157.3](#). However, practices listed in [section 157.1](#) when performed by the following persons are not defined as the practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences:

a. Licensed physicians and surgeons, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, nurses, dentists, podiatric physicians, optometrists, chiropractors, and physical therapists, when exclusively engaged in the practice of their respective professions.

b. Students enrolled in licensed schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences who are practicing under the instruction or immediate supervision of an instructor.

c. Persons who perform without compensation any of the practices listed in [section 157.1](#) on an emergency basis or on a casual basis.

d. Employees of hospitals, health care facilities, orphans’ homes, juvenile homes, and other similar facilities who perform barbering and cosmetology services for any resident without receiving direct compensation from the person receiving the service.

e. Volunteers for and residents of health care facilities, orphans’ homes, juvenile homes, and other similar facilities who shampoo, arrange, dress, or curl the hair, apply makeup, or polish the nails of any resident without receiving compensation from the person receiving the service.

f. Persons who perform any of the practices listed in [section 157.1](#) on themselves or on a member of the person’s immediate family.

g. Persons who apply samples of makeup, nail polish or other nail care products, cosmetics, or other cosmetology or esthetics preparations to persons to demonstrate the products in the regular course of business.

h. Persons providing services pursuant to an establishment training program authorized pursuant to [section 157.12D](#).

2. Cosmetologists and barbers shall not represent themselves to the public as electrologists, estheticians, or nail technologists unless the cosmetologist or barber has completed the course of study for the respective practice as prescribed by the board pursuant to [section 157.10](#).

3. With the exception of hair removal, manicuring, and nail technology services, persons licensed under [this chapter](#) or participating in an establishment training program authorized pursuant to [section 157.12D](#) shall not administer any procedure in which human tissue is cut, shaped, vaporized, or otherwise structurally altered.

4. Persons licensed under [this chapter](#) shall only use intense pulsed light devices for purposes of hair removal.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b2; C39, §2585.11; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.2]

89 Acts, ch 240, §2; 92 Acts, ch 1205, §2; 93 Acts, ch 61, §2, 3; 96 Acts, ch 1034, §68; 2004 Acts, ch 1044, §7; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §23; 2006 Acts, ch 1184, §100, 101; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §141; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §12 – 16; 2025 Acts, ch 140, §1, 2

Registration for persons performing natural hair braiding; §10A.532

Subsection 1, NEW paragraph h

Subsection 3 amended

157.3 License requirements.

1. An applicant who has graduated from high school or its equivalent shall be issued a

license to practice any of the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences by the department when the applicant satisfies all of the following:

a. Presents to the department a diploma, or similar evidence, issued by a licensed school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences indicating that the applicant has completed the course of study for the appropriate practice of the cosmetology arts and sciences prescribed by the board. An applicant may satisfy this requirement upon presenting a diploma or similar evidence issued by a school in another state, recognized by the board, which provides instruction regarding the practice for which licensure is sought, provided that the course of study is equivalent to or greater in length and scope than that required for a school in this state, and is approved by the board.

b. Completes the application form prescribed by the board.

c. Passes an examination prescribed by the board. The examination may include both practical demonstrations and written or oral tests and shall not be confined to any specific system or method. However, a member of the board who is a licensed instructor of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences shall not be involved in the selection or administration of the exam.

2. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), a person who completes the application form prescribed by the board and who submits satisfactory proof of having been licensed in a practice of the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences in another state for at least twelve months in the twenty-four month period preceding the submission of the application shall be allowed to take the examination for a license to practice the appropriate practice of the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences. However, the examination requirement shall be waived for those persons who submit evidence of licensure in another state which has a reciprocal agreement with the state of Iowa under [sections 147.44, 147.48, and 147.49](#).

3. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), a person who submits satisfactory proof, signed by the supervising licensees, of having completed two thousand hours of supervised practice under an establishment training program pursuant to [section 157.12D](#) shall be allowed to take the examination for a license to practice the appropriate practice of the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b3, -b4; C39, [§2585.12, 2585.13](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §157.3, 157.4; C77, 79, 81, §157.3]

[92 Acts, ch 1097, §5; 92 Acts, ch 1205, §3; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §24; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §17 – 19; 2025 Acts, ch 140, §3](#)

Referred to in [§157.2, 157.3A, 157.12B, 157.12C](#)

NEW subsection 3

157.3A License requirements — additional training.

In addition to the license requirements of [section 157.3](#), a written application and proof of additional training and certification shall be required prior to approval by the board for the provision of the services described in [this section](#).

1. a. A licensed esthetician, who intends to provide services pursuant to [section 157.1, subsection 13](#), paragraphs “a” and “c”, having received additional training on the use of microdermabrasion, a certified laser product, or an intense pulsed light device, shall submit a written application and proof of additional training and certification for approval by the board. Training shall be specific to the service provided or certified laser product used.

b. A licensed esthetician who applies permanent makeup or cosmetic micropigmentation shall comply with the provisions of [section 10A.531](#) and applicable rules.

c. Extractions shall be administered only by a licensed esthetician who has been trained in extraction procedures.

d. Chemical peels shall be administered only by a licensed esthetician who has been certified by the manufacturer of the product being used.

2. a. A licensed cosmetologist or barber having received additional training in the use of chemical peels, microdermabrasion, a certified laser product, or an intense pulsed light device for hair removal shall submit a written application and proof of additional training and certification for approval by the board. A cosmetologist or barber who is licensed after July 1,

2005, shall not be eligible to provide chemical peels, practice microdermabrasion procedures, use certified laser products, or use an intense pulsed light device for hair removal.

b. A licensed cosmetologist or barber who applies permanent makeup or cosmetic micropigmentation shall comply with the provisions of [section 10A.531](#) and applicable rules.

3. A licensed electrologist having received additional training on the use of a certified laser product or an intense pulsed light device for the purpose of hair removal shall submit a written application and proof of additional training and certification for approval by the board.

4. Any additional training received by a licensed esthetician, cosmetologist or barber, or electrologist and submitted to the board relating to utilization of a certified laser product or an intense pulsed light device shall include a safety training component which provides a thorough understanding of the procedures being performed. The training program shall address fundamentals of nonbeam hazards, management and employee responsibilities relating to control measures, and regulatory requirements.

5. A certified laser product shall only be used on surface epidermal layers of the skin except for hair removal.

6. Shaving or trimming for hair removal by a cosmetologist or barber trained and certified in the use of a straight edge razor in compliance with applicable rules of the board. The board shall not require a cosmetologist or barber to complete more than forty clock hours of training to receive a certification under [this subsection](#).

[2004 Acts, ch 1044, §8; 2005 Acts, ch 3, §39; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §25 – 28; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §20 – 22](#)

Referred to in [§157.13](#)

157.3B Examination information.

Notwithstanding [section 147.21](#), individual pass or fail examination results made available from the authorized national testing agency to the board may be disclosed to the board-approved education program from which the applicant for licensure graduated for purposes of verifying accuracy of national data and reporting aggregate licensure examination results as required for a program's continued accreditation.

[2009 Acts, ch 182, §129](#)

157.4 Temporary permits.

1. The department may issue a temporary permit which allows the applicant to practice in the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences for purposes determined by rule. The board shall determine and state its recommendations and the length of time the temporary permit issued under [this subsection](#) is valid.

2. The fee for a temporary permit shall be established by the board as provided in [section 147.80](#).

3. Notwithstanding [section 157.13, subsection 1](#), the board may issue a temporary permit to practice in the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences for the purpose of demonstrating barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences services to the public or for providing barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences services to the public at not-for-profit events. A permit issued pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall be subject to the following requirements:

a. The permit shall be issued for a specific event and may be issued to an establishment, school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences, or person.

b. The permit shall be posted and visible to the public at the location where the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences services are provided.

c. The permit shall be valid for no longer than twelve days.

d. An applicant for a temporary permit shall submit a completed application on a form provided by the board at least thirty days in advance of the intended use date.

e. An applicant shall submit an application fee determined by the board by rule.

f. The board shall issue no more than four permits to an applicant during a calendar year.

g. A person providing barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences services at a

not-for-profit event shall hold a current license to practice barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

[C31, 35, §2585-c10; C39, §2585.20; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §157.11; C77, 79, 81, §157.4]

92 Acts, ch 1205, §4; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §29; 2018 Acts, ch 1156, §1, 2; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §23 – 25

157.4A License and government-issued identification — peace officer request.

1. For purposes of [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

a. “Government-issued identification” means any of the following:

(1) An unexpired driver’s license issued by any state, territory, or district of the United States.

(2) An unexpired identification card issued by any state, territory, or district of the United States.

(3) An unexpired United States passport.

(4) A naturalization certificate issued by the United States citizenship and immigration services.

(5) An unexpired permanent resident card, also known as a green card, issued by the United States citizenship and immigration services.

(6) An unexpired employment authorization document issued by the United States citizenship and immigration services.

b. “Peace officer” means any of the following:

(1) Sheriffs and their regular deputies who are subject to mandated law enforcement training.

(2) Marshals and police officers of cities.

(3) Peace officer members of the department of public safety as defined in [chapter 80](#).

(4) Special security officers employed by board of regents institutions as set forth in [section 262.13](#).

(5) Employees of an aviation authority designated as peace officers by the authority under [section 330A.8, subsection 16](#).

2. A person licensed or who purports to be licensed under [this chapter](#) shall, upon the request of any peace officer investigating a complaint of illegal services, present a copy of the person’s valid license issued pursuant to [this chapter](#) and a government-issued identification to the peace officer.

2021 Acts, ch 123, §3; 2023 Acts, ch 85, §7

Referred to in §710A.1, 710A.2, 710A.3

157.4B Announcements to the public.

1. For purposes of [this section](#), “announcement to the public” means the use of any print media, broadcast media, subscription internet site, internet site available to the public, or any other means to do any of the following:

a. Advertise or market barbering or cosmetology services.

b. Provide a site for clients to post reviews.

c. Offer a virtual marketplace at which goods or services may be offered or clients may be solicited.

2. A person shall not do any of the following in an announcement to the public:

a. Represent that another person is licensed under [this chapter](#) when the person knows, or has reason to know, that the other person is not licensed.

b. Falsely represent the person’s self as licensed under [this chapter](#).

c. Offer, or imply the offer of, services that violate state law.

3. A person who violates [subsection 2](#) commits a serious misdemeanor.

2021 Acts, ch 123, §4; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §26

Referred to in §710A.3

157.5 Consent and reporting requirements.

1. A licensed cosmetologist or barber, esthetician, or electrologist who provides services relating to the use of a certified laser product, intense pulsed light device for hair removal,

chemical peel, or microdermabrasion, shall obtain a consent in writing prior to the administration of the services. A consent in writing shall create a presumption that informed consent was given if the consent:

a. Sets forth in general terms the nature and purpose of the procedure or procedures, together with the known risks associated with the procedure or procedures, if reasonably determinable.

b. Acknowledges that the disclosure of that information has been made and that all questions asked about the procedure or procedures have been answered in a satisfactory manner.

c. Is signed by the client for whom the procedure is to be performed, or if the client for any reason lacks legal capacity to consent, is signed by a person who has legal authority to consent on behalf of that client in those circumstances.

2. A licensed cosmetologist or barber, esthetician, or electrologist who provides services related to the use of a certified laser product, intense pulsed light device for hair removal, chemical peel, or microdermabrasion, shall submit a report to the board within thirty days of any incident involving the provision of such services which results in physical injury requiring medical attention. Failure to comply with [this section](#) shall result in disciplinary action being taken by the board.

[2004 Acts, ch 1044, §9; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §30, 31; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §27, 28](#)

157.5A Manicurists. Repealed by [2006 Acts, ch 1184, §126](#).

157.6 Sanitary rules — practice in the home.

The department shall prescribe sanitary rules for establishments and schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences which shall include the sanitary conditions necessary for the practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences and for the prevention of infectious and contagious diseases. Subject to local zoning ordinances, an establishment may be established in a residence if a room other than the living quarters is equipped for that purpose. The department shall enforce [this section](#) and make necessary inspections for enforcement purposes.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b6; C39, §**2585.15**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.6]

[92 Acts, ch 1205, §6; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §29](#)

Referred to in [§157.8, 157.12C, 157.12D, 157.13](#)

157.7 Inspectors and clerical assistants.

1. The department shall employ personnel pursuant to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), to perform duties related to inspection functions under [this chapter](#).

2. The department may employ clerical assistants pursuant to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), to administer and enforce [this chapter](#). The costs and expenses of the clerical assistants shall be paid from funds appropriated to the department.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b9; C39, §**2585.17**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §157.8; C77, 79, 81, §157.7]

[90 Acts, ch 1204, §23; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §201; 2019 Acts, ch 24, §104; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1635; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §30](#)

157.8 Licensing of schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences and instructors.

1. It is unlawful for a school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences to operate unless the owner has obtained a license issued by the department. The owner shall file a verified application with the department on forms prescribed by the board.

2. a. The application for a license for a school shall be accompanied by the annual license fee determined pursuant to [section 147.80](#) and shall state the name and location of the school and such other additional information as the board may require. The license is valid for one year and may be renewed.

b. The license shall contain a statement which provides that the licensee is approved by the department as a provider of postsecondary education.

c. The school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences must pass a sanitary inspection under [section 157.6](#). An annual inspection of each school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences, including the educational activities of each school, shall be conducted and completed by the board or its designee prior to renewal of the license.

3. a. The number of instructors for each school shall be based upon total enrollment, with a minimum of two licensed instructors employed on a full-time basis for up to thirty students and an additional licensed instructor for each fifteen additional students. A student instructor shall not be used to meet licensed instructor-to-student ratios. A school operated by an area community college prior to September 1, 1982, with only one instructor per fifteen students is not subject to this paragraph and may continue to operate with the ratio of one licensed instructor to fifteen students. A student instructor may not be used to meet this requirement.

b. A school with less than thirty students enrolled may have one licensed instructor on site in the school if offering only clinic services or only theory instruction in a single classroom and less than fifteen students are present. If a school is offering clinic services and theory instruction simultaneously to less than fifteen students, at least two licensed instructors must be on site. Schools with more than thirty students enrolled shall meet the licensed instructor-to-student ratio as provided in paragraph “a”.

c. A person employed as an instructor in the barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences by a licensed school shall be licensed in the practice and shall possess a separate instructor’s license which shall be renewed biennially. An instructor shall file an application with the department on forms prescribed by the board. Requirements for licensure as an instructor shall be determined by the board by rule.

d. The application for an instructor’s license shall be accompanied by the biennial fee determined pursuant to [section 147.80](#).

[C31, 35, §2585-c9; C39, §2585.18; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §157.9; C77, 79, 81, §157.8] 83 Acts, ch 68, §1; 92 Acts, ch 1205, §7; 2004 Acts, ch 1044, §10; 2010 Acts, ch 1163, §6; 2012 Acts, ch 1062, §1; 2023 Acts, ch 99, §31 – 34

157.8A Use of schools of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

1. A school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences may be used for purposes other than student instruction so long as the other activities do not disrupt classes.

2. An instructor employed by a school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences may perform barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences services at the school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences for compensation while not instructing students.

3. The board shall adopt rules for the implementation of [this section](#).

2023 Acts, ch 99, §35; 2025 Acts, ch 140, §4

Section amended

157.9 License suspension and revocation.

Any license issued by the department under the provisions of [this chapter](#) may be suspended, revoked, or renewal denied by the board for violation of any provision of [this chapter](#) or rules promulgated by the board under the provisions of [chapter 17A](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §157.9]

2023 Acts, ch 99, §36

157.10 Course of study.

1. a. The course of study required for licensure for the practice of barbering and cosmetology shall be a minimum of one thousand five hundred fifty clock hours, or fifty-one semester credit hours or the equivalent thereof as determined pursuant to administrative rule and regulations promulgated by the United States department of education. The clock hours, and equivalent number of semester credit hours or the equivalent thereof as determined pursuant to administrative rule and regulations promulgated by the United States department of education, of a course of study required for licensure for the practices of electrology, and esthetics, nail technology shall be established by the board. The board shall adopt rules to define the course and content of study for each practice of cosmetology arts and sciences.

b. The course of study required for licensure which is limited to the practice of esthetics shall be a minimum of six hundred hours.

c. The course of study required for licensure which is limited to the practice of nail technology shall be a minimum of three hundred twenty-five hours.

d. The board may approve a course of study allowing a student to simultaneously study for licenses to practice both esthetics and nail technology. A student who partially completes a combined course of study for licensure for the practice of esthetics and nail technology is not eligible for licensure for the practice of esthetics or nail technology unless the student has completed the licensure requirements for the practice of esthetics or nail technology. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) for the implementation of this paragraph.

2. A person licensed in or a student of a practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences shall be granted full credit for each course successfully completed which meets the requirements for licensure in another practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

3. A student in a barber school who enrolls in a school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences shall be granted, at the discretion of the school, at least half credit and up to full credit for each course successfully completed for licensure in the practice of barbering which meets the requirements for licensure in a practice of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences.

[C77, 79, 81, §157.10]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §1](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §8](#); [2004 Acts, ch 1100, §2](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1184, §102](#); [2023 Acts, ch 99, §37](#); [2025 Acts, ch 140, §5](#)

Referred to in [§157.2](#)

Subsection 1, NEW paragraph d

157.11 Establishment licenses.

1. An establishment shall not operate unless the owner has obtained a license issued by the department. The owner shall apply to the department on forms prescribed by the board. The department may perform a sanitary inspection of each establishment biennially and may perform a sanitary inspection of an establishment prior to the issuance of a license. An inspection of an establishment may also be conducted upon receipt of a complaint by the department.

2. The application shall be accompanied by the biennial license fee determined pursuant to [section 147.80](#). The license is valid for two years and may be renewed.

3. A licensed school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences at which students or licensees practice barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences is exempt from licensing as an establishment.

[C77, 79, 81, §157.11]

[88 Acts, ch 206, §10](#); [91 Acts, ch 268, §431](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §9](#); [99 Acts, ch 141, §28](#); [2014 Acts, ch 1106, §17](#); [2023 Acts, ch 99, §38](#); [2025 Acts, ch 140, §6](#)

Referred to in [§157.12B](#), [157.12C](#), [157.12D](#)

Subsection 3 amended

157.12 Supervisors.

A person who directly supervises the work of practitioners of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences shall be licensed in the practice supervised.

[C31, 35, §2585-c11; C39, §2585.21; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.12]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §2](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §10](#); [2023 Acts, ch 99, §39](#)

Referred to in [§157.13](#)

157.12A Use of laser or light products on minors.

A laser hair removal product or device, or intense pulsed light device, shall not be used on a minor unless the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian and only under the general supervision of a physician.

[2004 Acts, ch 1044, §11](#); [2005 Acts, ch 89, §32](#)

157.12B Threading.

1. A person engaged exclusively in the practice of threading is not required to receive a license issued under [section 157.3](#).
2. A person may engage in the practice of threading at a location that is not licensed pursuant to [section 157.11](#).
3. For the purposes of [this section](#), “threading” means the removal of hairs from the eyebrows, upper lip, or other body parts by the use of a thread and includes the use of astringents, gels, powders, tweezers, and scissors incidental to the use of a thread.
[2022 Acts, ch 1005, §3](#)

157.12C Blow-dry styling.

1. A person engaged exclusively in the practice of blow-dry styling is not required to receive a license issued under [section 157.3](#).
2. A person shall not engage in the practice of blow-dry styling except at an establishment that is licensed pursuant to [section 157.11](#) or an establishment established in a residence pursuant to [section 157.6](#).
3. A person shall not engage exclusively in the practice of blow-dry styling unless the person has completed two hours of education related to Iowa cosmetology law and rules and sanitation, as determined by the board by rule.
4. For the purposes of [this section](#), “blow-dry styling” means the practice of shampooing, conditioning, drying, arranging, curling, straightening or styling hair using only mechanical devices, hair sprays, and topical agents such as balms, oils and serums, and includes the use and styling of hair extensions, hair pieces and wigs. “Blow-dry styling” does not include cutting hair or the application of dyes, bleaches, reactive chemicals, keratin treatments, or other preparations to color or alter the structure of hair.
[2023 Acts, ch 99, §40](#)

157.12D Establishment training program.

1. An establishment training program is created. The board shall create an establishment training program and allow establishments to register to participate in the program. An establishment licensed pursuant to [section 157.11](#), including an establishment operating in a residence pursuant to [section 157.6](#), may participate in the program by registering with the board.
2. An establishment that registers with the board may employ persons, without regard to the person’s licensure status, to provide services that would otherwise require a license under [this chapter](#) under the supervision of a licensee who regularly provides those services. A person providing services without a license must first complete two hours of education related to barbering and cosmetology laws in this state and rules and sanitation, as determined by the board by rule, before offering services permitted under the program. The establishment owner is responsible for ensuring the education, training, skills, and competence of persons who provide services in the owner’s establishment.
3. An establishment participating in the establishment training program shall comply with all facility and minimum equipment requirements, safety and infection control provisions, inspection requirements, management requirements, and establishment licensing renewal requirements. The department shall inspect an establishment participating in the program as the department deems necessary to ensure compliance with these requirements.
4. The establishment shall disclose in writing prior to the consumer’s receipt of services from an unlicensed provider that the establishment is participating in the program and that the provider is not licensed. The disclosure shall be clearly legible and state: “This licensed establishment is registered to participate in an establishment training program. This establishment employs unlicensed providers who work under the supervision of licensed providers. The services you are receiving are from an unlicensed provider participating in this program.”
5. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, in an action based on an injury alleged to have occurred in an establishment participating in the establishment training program, a

prevailing party may recover reasonable attorney fees and receive other equitable relief as determined by the court.

6. In addition to any other disciplinary powers established pursuant to [this chapter](#), the board may, when it has probable cause to believe that human health is endangered, order an establishment participating in the program to immediately cease participation in the program. The board shall conduct formal proceedings pursuant to [this chapter](#) to determine whether the problem has been corrected, whether to suspend, revoke, or reinstate the establishment's participation in the program, and whether to suspend, revoke, or reinstate the establishment's license.

7. For the purposes of [this section](#), "supervision" means within the physical presence of a licensee and the licensee is available to assist in providing services.

2025 Acts, ch 140, §7

Referred to in §157.2, 157.3, 157.13

NEW section

157.13 Violations.

1. It is unlawful for a person to employ an individual to practice barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences unless that individual is licensed or has obtained a temporary permit under [this chapter](#). It is unlawful for a licensee to practice with or without compensation in any place other than a licensed establishment, or a licensed school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences. The following exceptions to [this subsection](#) shall apply:

a. A licensee may practice at a location which is not a licensed establishment, school of barbering and cosmetology arts and sciences, or licensed barbershop pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

b. Notwithstanding [section 157.12](#), when the licensee is employed by a physician and provides barbering and cosmetology services at the place of practice of a physician and is under the supervision of a physician licensed to practice pursuant to [chapter 148](#).

c. When the practice occurs in a facility licensed pursuant to [chapter 135B](#) or [135C](#).

d. When the practice is performed by a person without a license under the supervision of a licensee in an establishment registered with the board pursuant to [section 157.12D](#).

2. A licensed cosmetologist may work in a licensed barbershop. It is unlawful for a person to employ a licensed cosmetologist or barber, esthetician, or electrologist to perform the services described in [section 157.3A](#) if the licensee has not received the additional training and met the other requirements specified in [section 157.3A](#).

3. If the owner or manager of an establishment does not comply with the sanitary rules adopted under [section 157.6](#) or fails to maintain the establishment as prescribed by rules of the department, the department may notify the owner or manager in writing of the failure to comply. If the rules are not complied with within five days after receipt of the written notice by the owner or manager, the department shall in writing order the establishment closed until the rules are complied with. It is unlawful for a person to practice in an establishment which has been closed under [this section](#). The county attorney in each county shall assist the department in enforcing [this section](#).

4. If the board has reasonable grounds to believe that a person or establishment which is not licensed under [this chapter](#) and that is not participating in an establishment training program pursuant to [section 157.12D](#) has engaged, or is about to engage, in an act or practice which requires licensure under [this chapter](#), or otherwise violates a provision of [this chapter](#), the board may issue an order to require the unlicensed person or establishment to comply with the provisions of [this chapter](#), and may impose a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation of [this chapter](#) by an unlicensed person or establishment. Each day of a continued violation after an order or citation by the board constitutes a separate offense, with the maximum penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars.

a. In determining the amount of a civil penalty, the board may consider the following:

- (1) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violation.
- (2) The circumstances leading to or resulting in the violation.
- (3) The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public.

(4) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of noncompliance.

(5) The welfare or best interest of the public.

b. The board may conduct an investigation as needed to determine whether probable cause exists to initiate the proceedings described in [this subsection](#). Before issuing an order or citation under [this section](#), the board shall provide written notice and the opportunity to request a hearing on the record. The hearing must be requested within thirty days of the issuance of the notice and shall be conducted as provided in [chapter 17A](#). The board may, in connection with a proceeding under [this section](#), issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the disclosure of evidence and may request the attorney general to bring an action to enforce the subpoena.

c. A person aggrieved by the imposition of a civil penalty under [this section](#) may seek judicial review in accordance with [section 17A.19](#). The board shall notify the attorney general of the failure to pay a civil penalty within thirty days after entry of an order pursuant to [this subsection](#), or within ten days following final judgment in favor of the board if an order has been stayed pending appeal. The attorney general may commence an action to recover the amount of the penalty, including reasonable attorney fees and costs. An action to enforce an order under [this subsection](#) may be joined with an action for an injunction.

[C31, 35, §2585-c12; C39, §**2585.22**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.13]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §3](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §11](#); [2004 Acts, ch 1044, §12, 13](#); [2005 Acts, ch 89, §33](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1184, §103, 104](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1088, §111](#); [2023 Acts, ch 99, §41 – 43](#); [2025 Acts, ch 140, §8, 9](#)

Referred to in [§157.4](#)

Subsection 1, NEW paragraph d

Subsection 4, unnumbered paragraph 1 amended

157.14 Rules.

The board shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the provisions of [this chapter](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §157.14]

[89 Acts, ch 3, §1](#)

157.15 Penalty.

A person convicted of violating any of the provisions of [this chapter](#) or rules adopted pursuant to [this chapter](#) is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

[C35, §2522; C39, §**2585.24**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §157.15]

[92 Acts, ch 1205, §12](#)