



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

PROPOSED Guidance Document:

NON-TRADITIONAL OR ONLINE INSTRUCTION

I. Background

Board regulations require schools to submit their curriculum to the Board for approval, and any subsequent changes to the curriculum must be approved by the Board. Board regulations also require separate classroom areas for theory and practical instruction. Pursuant to these requirements, the Board created a guidance document that outlines the types of online instruction the Board finds acceptable. Most recently revised in February of 2016, the guidance document only allows certain general topics, which are common across all professions regulated by the Board, to be taught online. For most professions, this makes up between 100 to 200 hours of their curriculum, or 5-15% of the total instruction. Some professions do not have content that is common across all professions, such as tattooing, and are not eligible for online instruction. Most licensed schools do not have approved online curriculum.

II. Issue

At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, most schools faced having to immediately shut down because they were not Board approved to teach online instruction, or had quickly exhausted all the permitted online topics. On March 13, 2020, pursuant to authority granted in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, DPOR's Director, Mary Broz-Vaughan issued a waiver of any Board regulation that prohibited schools from teaching theory topics via distance or online instruction. This waiver is in effect until 30 days after the State of Emergency ends. While the schools in Virginia were able to resume instruction under this waiver, the Board's guidance will take effect once the waiver expires, and schools will once again be extremely limited in their ability to conduct

online instruction. Online instruction provides schools the opportunity to operate while providing their student a safer, at-home, learning experience.

III. Board Guidance

On July 13, 2020, the Board revised its guidance for non-traditional or online instruction to the following:

Schools may offer non-traditional or 'online' instruction on all theory topics in their approved curriculum.

School should utilize technologies and practices that are effective in verifying the identity of distance-learning students who participate in class or coursework (such as a secure login and pass code) while protecting student privacy.

There is a measure of competency (examination) of the information the student is taught online which shall be completed in a traditional brick and mortar classroom.

The Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding non-traditional or online instruction. A 30-day comment period will begin on August 17, 2020.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received no later than September 17, 2020 to:

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