



## **Board for Barbers and Cosmetology**

**Revised** Guidance Document: December 8, 2022

### **Substantial Equivalence**

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#### **I. Background**

The Board maintains a guidance document that outlines a method for evaluating substantial equivalence for barbers, cosmetology, nail and wax technicians, tattooers, and estheticians. Board regulations require candidates with out-of-state training to provide proof of training that is substantially equivalent to Virginia education requirements. The Board determined at least 80% of the required hours in Virginia curriculum content covering Virginia's scope of practice for that profession constitute substantial equivalence for candidates licensing by endorsement and examination eligibility. On September 26, 2022, the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology approved the guidance document, repealing the barbering, cosmetology, nails, and waxing substantial equivalence section. The revised barbers and cosmetology regulations allows experience to substitute training hours as of October 1, 2021 which incorporated a regulatory definition of substantially equivalent exams and training.

#### **II. Issue**

The guidance document's objective is to provide candidates in esthetics and tattooing with out-of-state training an alternative route in qualifying for licensure when they are unable to demonstrate their training is substantially equivalent to Virginia's training requirements. The Board eliminated the substantial equivalent section from the guidance document for barbering, cosmetology, nails, and waxing because the amended regulations, effective October 1, 2021, allowed experience to substitute training hours.

#### **III. Board Guidance**

On September 26, 2022, the Board approved guidance for substantial equivalence.

#### **Substantial equivalence in relation to licensure endorsement**

The Board has determined that substantial equivalence in reference to 18 VAC 41-50-30 and 18 VAC 41-70-30 means:

“At least 80% of the required hours in Virginia and curriculum content covering Virginia’s scope of practice for that profession.”

**Substantial equivalence in relation to examination eligibility in reference to 18 VAC 41-50-20 and 18 VAC 41-70-20 means:**

“At least 80% of the required hours in Virginia and curriculum content covering Virginia’s scope of practice for that profession.”

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*The Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding the substantial equivalence. A 30-day comment period will begin on November 7, 2022.*

*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 December 7, 2022 to:*

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