



State of North Carolina
BOARD OF BARBER AND ELECTROLYSIS EXAMINERS
7001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-7000
Phone (919) 814-0640 • Fax (919) 981-5068
barbers.nc.gov • barbers@nc.gov • ncbee.com • electrolysis@nc.gov

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Dear schools:

The North Carolina Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners has decided to reintroduce the shave into the practical exam with a mannequin. This letter and the attachment provide information about the exam.

This change was previously communicated in general terms by email, on the board's website, through virtual meetings, and with a YouTube recording of the meeting. However, I'm providing you additional details about the exam, including a breakdown of the score, time, equipment requirements, and procedures.

Background

Before 2020, the board had discussions about moving to a mannequin-based exam. When the pandemic arrived, the board decided to make a temporary shift to mannequins. This decision limited the number of people present during exams and thus increased social distancing. At the time, the board believed that this would be a short-term measure, but the pandemic dragged on longer than most people predicted.

In the meantime, an ad hoc committee of the board worked on various exam reforms. This committee developed long-term plans for a mannequin-based exam that would continue long after the pandemic abated. These plans included a reintroduction of the shave into the practical exam.

Shave in the practical exam

The attached document describes the equipment requirements, procedures, time constraints, and grading for the shave portion of the practical exam. The board determined that it could bring the shave back relatively quickly because the exam assess skills that schools should already be developing in students.

When the shave will be reintroduced

Beginning in March, applicants will have to demonstrate knowledge of the shave. Some students have already been scheduled for exams and won't have to perform the shave. **Applicants should refer to their exam instructions to determine whether they'll be tested on the shave.** If their instructions say they don't need to perform the shave, this change won't apply to them. If students have questions, they can contact us at barbers@nc.gov.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at dennis.seavers@nc.gov or (919) 814-0641.

Sincerely,

Dennis Seavers
Executive Director

SHAVE PORTION OF EXAM (REGISTERED AND APPRENTICE)

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must bring the following for the shave. This list may overlap with the haircut portion, but it's separate.

- The applicants will bring a mannequin. Since they won't be removing hair, it won't matter whether the mannequin has facial hair. Since this will be demonstration only, male or female mannequins will be fine. This mannequin can be the same as the one for the haircut.
- Shaving cream. Since we're at schools, we can't assume that we'll have the shaving cream dispensers that we used to have at our old facility.
- Razor (blades not necessary and shouldn't be inserted into the razor).
- Hair cloth/drape.
- Blood-exposure equipment:
 - Disposable gloves (latex or nitrile)
 - Antiseptic for disinfection
 - Styptic powder to stop bleed. Appropriate use of applicator without cross-contamination is important.
 - Normally, the applicants would need to dispose of medical waste appropriately. In this case, we can ask them about proper disposal rather than have separate containers or bags.

PROCEDURES

When the practical exam begins, the applicant will:

1. Properly drape the mannequin;
2. Properly apply shaving cream;
3. Using a razor holder with no blade inserted, perform the shave
4. They must demonstrate proper positioning of the razor, perform the 14 steps in the correct order, and perform the strokes properly.
5. Applicants must be prepared to answer questions from the inspectors about the service. Inspectors will ask questions:
 - a. Related to issues the inspectors may observe or to help the inspector properly assess the applicant (e.g., "Please show me that stroke again");
 - b. Questions about the parts of the razor, the steps, or strokes.
 - c. Spot-testing their knowledge of blood exposure by pretending that the client or applicant has sustained a cut.

TIME

We'll allocate 20 minutes for this portion of the exam. We don't expect them to complete a full shave service but this will give time for the inspectors to assess the individual.

GRADING

For the sections below, inspectors should grade the applicant in a way that's proportionate to the level of knowledge. There should not be "automatic fails" but rather a score that represents the applicant's mastery of the subject and skill. For example:

- If an applicant shows complete command and mastery over the topic, he or she should be awarded the full points for the category.
- Inspectors should award partial points to applicants with knowledge of some but not all aspects of the topic. If the applicant makes mistakes but appears to understand the topic, partial points are appropriate.
- Inspectors should only award 0 points if the applicant shows no knowledge whatsoever of the topic or where the applicant's demonstration would pose a significant threat to a client's health and safety.

Inspectors should grade objectively according to the demonstration, but inspectors should keep in mind that individuals may be nervous. The goal is to assess the individual's knowledge and ensure public health and safety. The aim is NOT to find reasons to deduct points or "ding" the applicant.

Inspectors will grade as follows:

1. Identify the 14 shaving areas of the face and drape 30 pts

The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of the 14 areas and how to properly drape the client. This grading section has the highest number of points because it's foundational and presents a risk to the client of injury, infection, and dermatological problems.

2. Infection control, blood exposure, and safety precautions 25 pts

The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of how to prevent infection and protect the client from disease. The applicant may be spot-tested to determine whether he or she can properly handle a blood-exposure situation.

3. Know strokes (14) and parts of the tool..... 20 pts

The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of how to properly hold the razor, perform the 14 strokes, and explain the parts of the razor. The demonstration should indicate that the applicant has a level of knowledge to reduce the chance of injury to the client.

4. Understand body positioning 8 pts

The applicant must demonstrate that he or she knows how to position the body in a way appropriate for the aspect of the shave being performed at that moment.

5. Demonstrate holding the razor in the learned four (4) positions..... 10 pts

Earlier, the applicant had to demonstrate that he or she knew the razor positions (see item 3 above). Here, the applicant is demonstrating how to properly hold the razor in those positions. This category differs from item 3 above because it's applied knowledge and skill.

6. Know the types of shaves 7 pts

Does the applicant demonstrate knowledge of the types of shaves? Inspectors should allocate points based on the level of knowledge the applicant has. Examples include the following situations.

The types of shave include:

- First-time-over shave;
- Second-time-over shave;
- Once-over shave;
- Close shave; and
- Neck shave and outline shave