



Office of the Legislative Auditor
State of Minnesota

Board of Cosmetology Licensing

May 27, 2021



Key findings

- Complex licensing structure creates unnecessary burdens for licensees
- Confusion about differences between cosmetology and barbering; regulatory inconsistencies

Cosmetology



...personal services, for compensation, for the cosmetic care of the **hair**, **nails** and **skin**.

— *Minnesota Statutes 2020*,
155A.23, subd. 3



Regulatory Purpose

- To protect public health and safety
- License required



The Board of Cosmetology regulates the practice of cosmetology

- Licenses, inspects, enforces
- Received \$2.9 million in FY 2020
- Collects licensing fees and enforcement penalties

7-Member Board

2 Cosmetologists

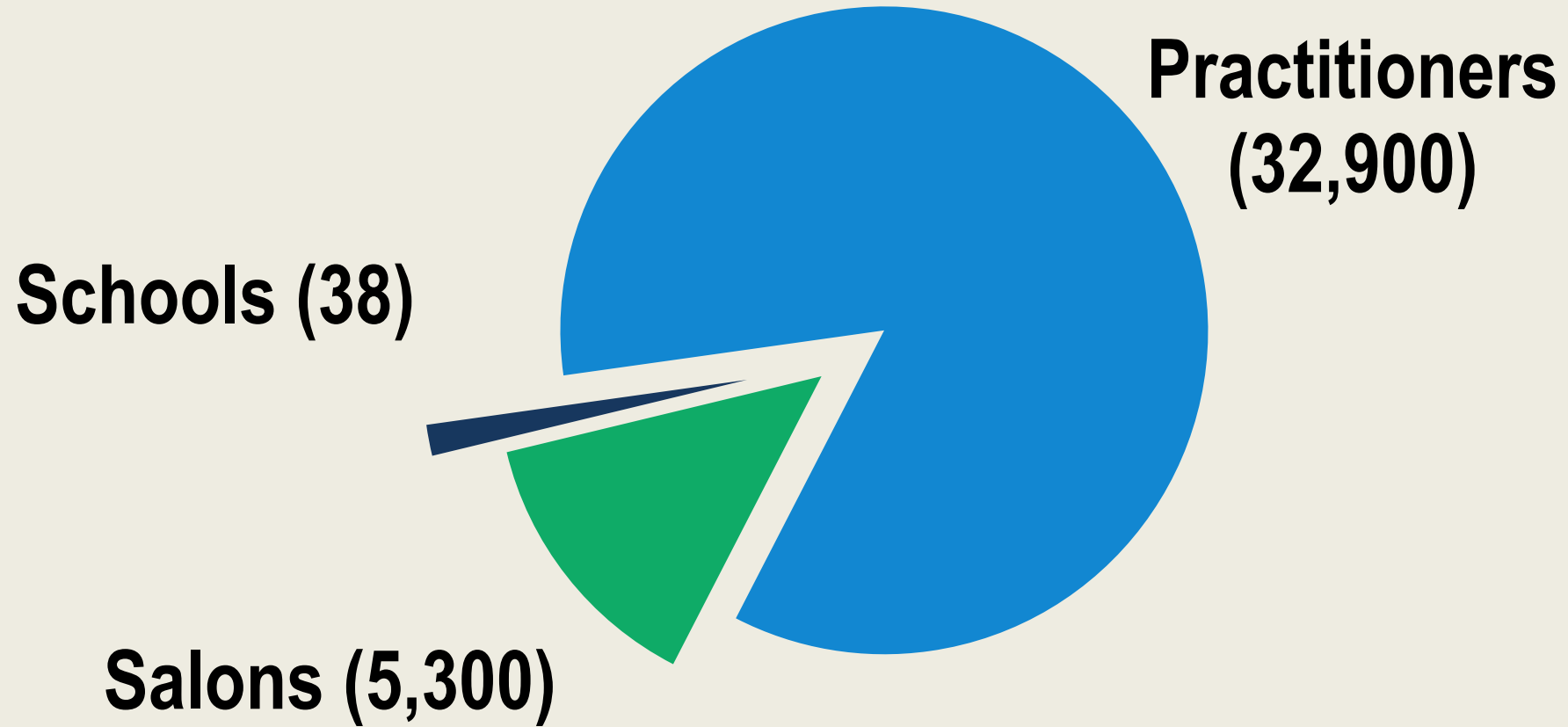
1 Esthetician

1 Nail technician

2 Instructors

1 Member of the public

38,000 Licensees, FY 2020



Licenses Issued, FY 2020

Permits (200)

Salons (1,860)



Practitioners (11,800)

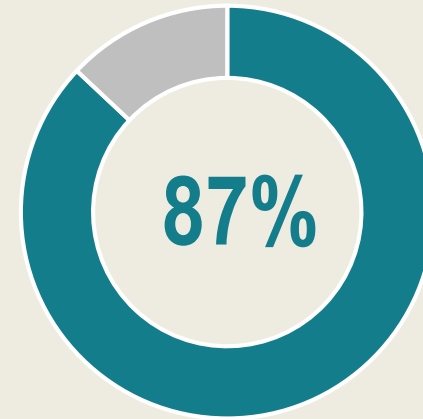
Schools (13)

Applicant Experiences

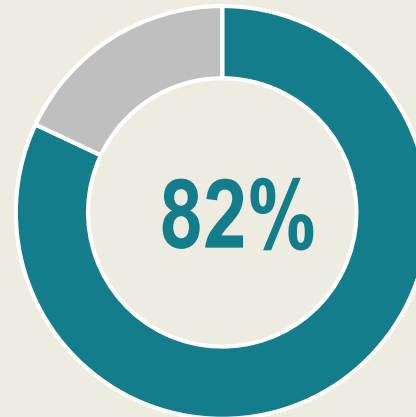


At times it has been a struggle to get a straightforward answer, as there always seems to be a grey area.

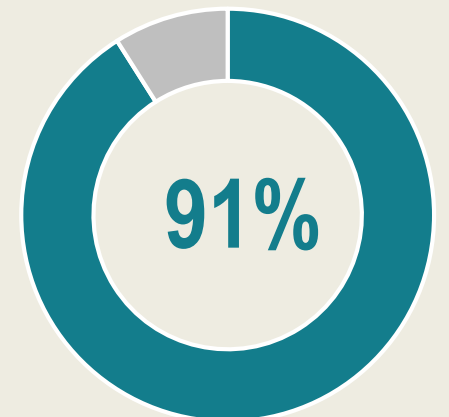
—Licensee



**Application Process Ease
(Practitioner Renewals)**



Website Satisfaction



E-mail Clarity

Licensing Structure for Practitioners

Level of Practice	Area of Practice				
	Cosmetology	Nails	Esthetics	Advanced Practice Esthetics	Eyelash Extensions
Operator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Salon Manager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Instructor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
School Manager	✓	-	-	-	-

Licensing Structure for Practitioners

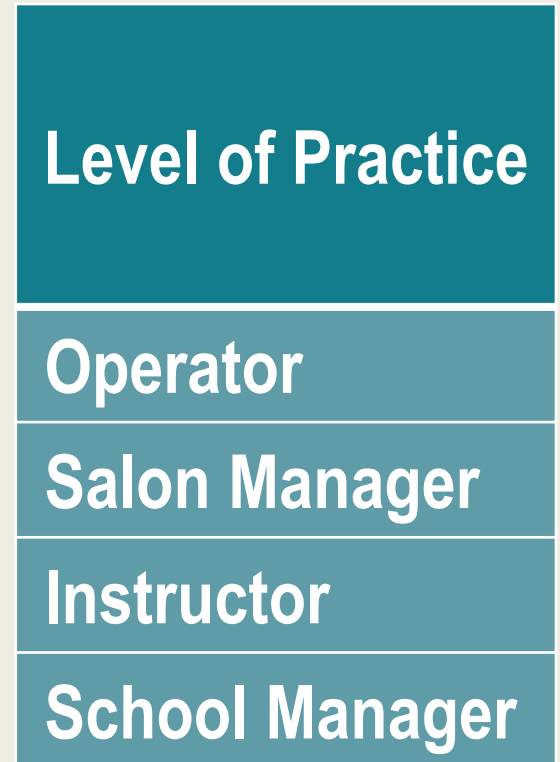


I hold **five licenses**, which cost approximately \$725 every three years to renew...along with an additional \$1,500+ in continuing education costs...

—Licensee

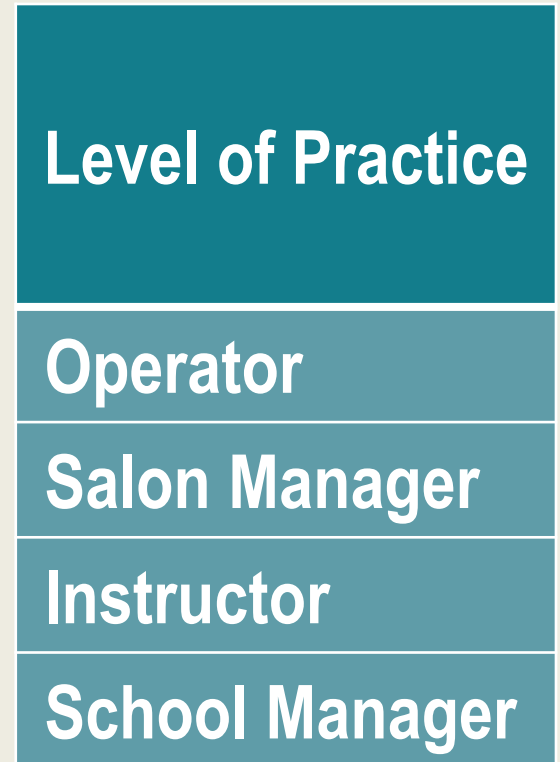
Operator

- Complete training and pass practical skills test
- Pass written practical, general theory, and state cosmetology laws exams
- Pay \$195, three-year license fee



Salon Manager

- Able to serve as the “designated licensed salon manager” (DLSM)
- 2,700-hour requirement repealed
- Tested on same legal provisions as operators



Salon Manager Recommendations

- Repeal salon manager license
- Allow operators to serve as designated salon manager



Level of Practice

Operator

Salon Manager

Instructor

School Manager

Instructor and School Manager

Level of Practice	Supersedes	Must Also Hold
Operator	-	-
Salon Manager	Operator license	-
Instructor	-	Operator or salon manager license
School Manager	-	Salon manager license

Instructor and School Manager

- Requirements exceed those of underlying licenses, but do not supersede underlying licenses
- Must hold multiple licenses



Instructor and School Manager Recommendations

- Allow instructor and school manager licenses to supersede underlying licenses



Specialty Licenses



I feel a separate ‘hair’ track should be considered for licensing people instead of making students pick cosmetology when they have no desire to do skin or nails.

— Licensee

Area of Practice	Hours of Training
Cosmetologist	1,550
Hair	No license
Esthetician	600
Nail Technician	350

Specialty Licenses Recommendations

- Create a hair-only specialty license
- Consider creating other narrow-scope specialty licenses
- Consider endorsement-based licensing structure

Example of Endorsement-Based License

Hair

Nails

Nails Instructor

Salon License

- Rule change made requirements the same
- Began issuing single type of salon license in 2018
- Statutes still require salon licenses to be differentiated by area of practice



Salon License Recommendation

- Allow the board to issue salon licenses that are not differentiated by area of practice



Practice Outside of Salons

	Homebound Services	Special Event Services
Scope of Practice	Any services	Hairstyling (no cuts or chemical treatments) Makeup Nail polish
Requirements	Must hold any license	Must hold salon manager license Must notify board where services will be performed
Fee	\$50 for 3 years	\$75 for 1 year

Practice Outside of Salons

Recommendations

- Reevaluate the scope and requirements for these permits
- Consider merging them

Makeup and Hairstyling

- 2020 Legislation exempted makeup artists and hairstylists from licensing if they take a one-time, four-hour course
- No means to enforce



Makeup and Hairstyling Recommendations

- Require unlicensed makeup artists and hairstylists to register
- Publish and audit registrations
- Require makeup artists and hairstylists to take the four-hour course at a regular interval



Cosmetology and Barbering Scopes



Cosmetology and Barbering

No Reciprocity

Required Training	Cosmetology	Barbering
Total	1,550	1,500
Infection control	✓	✓
Safety procedures	✓	✓
Anatomy	✓	✓
Dermatology	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓
Cutting hair	✓	✓
Chemical hair treatments	✓	✓

Cosmetology and Barbering

No Reciprocity

Existing Credential		New Credential
Esthetician	550 hours →	Cosmetologist
Nail technician	200 hours →	Esthetician
Esthetician	100 hours →	Nail Technician
Barber	0 hours →	Cosmetologist

Cosmetology and Barbering Regulatory Inconsistencies

	Cosmetology	Barbering
Credential Required	License	Registration
Manager License	Required	Not required
Practice outside credentialed establishment	Allowed	Not allowed
Mobile establishment	Allowed	Not allowed
Continuing education	Required	Not required
Renewal	\$115, 3-year renewal	\$80, annual renewal

Cosmetology and Barbering Boards

FY 2019-2020	Cosmetology Board	Barber Board
Employees	31	3
Appropriations	\$5.7 M	\$686,000
Licensees	38,300	2,900
Credentials issued	27,600	600
Inspections conducted	8,500	1,100
Complaints received	490	80

Cosmetology and Barbering in Other States

- Allow only barbers to shave and trim beards
- Allow both barbers and cosmetologists to shave and trim beards
- Offer a crossover license or reciprocity across licenses

Cosmetology and Barbering Recommendations

- Consider merging the two boards
- Clarify the scopes of practice of cosmetology and barbering
- Allow cosmetology practitioners to count some of their training toward a barber credential and vice versa

Board of Cosmetology Licensing

www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us