



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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G. Bryan Slater
Secretary of Labor

James B. "Jeb" Wilkinson, Jr.
Director

REGULATORY UPDATE: DISCONTINUATION OF INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS

TO: Schools with Instructor Program(s)

FROM: Kelley Smith, Executive Director

DATE: October 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Immediate Discontinuation of Instructor Programs and Associated Deadlines

This memorandum serves as official notice regarding a revision to regulatory requirements of the Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, and the Board for Esthetics. Effective December 1, 2025, the Instructor Program will no longer be a method of qualification for an instructor certificate.

Please be aware that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) will similarly no longer certify this instructor course.

Key Deadlines for the Instructor Program

All licensed schools must adhere to the following mandatory deadlines for currently enrolled students:

- Schools with instructor programs currently approved by the Board may continue to enroll new students until November 30, 2025. Students enrolled on or before November 30, 2025, must complete the program no later than February 28, 2026.
- Students enrolled in an instructor program on or after December 1, 2025, may not use the course work to qualify for an instructor certificate.

Status of Pending Applications

Any school with an application for a new or revised Instructor Program currently pending review with the Board will have that application canceled and will not be processed. All associated application fees received for these instructor program applications will be refunded in full.

Alternatives to Instructor Programs

Moving forward, schools must refer to the updated requirements for instructor qualifications outlined in the barber and cosmetology regulations and the esthetic regulations effective December 1, 2025. Students can now qualify for the instructor license through alternative pathways.

Please contact the Board at rr-BCHOPSchoolRoster@dpor.virginia.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Board for Barbers and Cosmetology