Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Board for Barbers and Cosmetology
February 10, 2014

Guidance Document -
Substantial Equivalence

Substantial equivalence in relation to licensure endorsement

The Board has determined that substantial equivalence in reference to 18 VAC 41-20-30 means:

> ”80% of the required hours in Virginia”

This policy means that any applicant with less than 80% of the required hours in Virginia is ineligible for license by endorsement.

Substantial equivalence in relation to examination eligibility

Under 18 VAC 41-20-20.B.2.a., it states that,

> “Any person completing a barber or cosmetology training program that is substantially equivalent to the Virginia program but is outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia must submit to the board documentation of the successful completion of 1,500 hours of barber or cosmetology training to be eligible for examination. If less than 1,500 hours of training was completed, an applicant must submit a certificate, diploma or other documentation acceptable to the board verifying the completion of a substantially equivalent barber or cosmetology course and documentation of six months of barber or cosmetology work experience in order to be eligible for examination.”

Substantially equivalent under this section means applicants would be eligible for examination if they have submitted documentation showing:

- 1,500 hours of training; or
- 1200-1499 hours of training (at least 80% of the required hours in Virginia) **and** six (6) months of full time work experience; or
- 1000-1199 hours of training **and** completion of the ‘general’ or ‘intro’ portions of the curriculum of an approved Virginia program (as provided below) **and** six (6) months of full time work experience; and

Continued on reverse

Any amount less than 1000 hours of training outside of Virginia will not count towards eligibility for examination.

The ‘general’ or ‘intro’ portions of the curriculum, as indicated in the Guidance Document for Non-Traditional Classroom Education, include the following courses:

- Orientation
- School Policies
- State laws and regulations
- Health and safety
- Personal hygiene
- Sanitation and Sterilization
- Ethics
- Salon/Shop/Parlor Management
- Analyzing skin or scalp conditions
- Anatomy
- Client Consultation
- Care of equipment
- Procedures