



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Cosmetology Commission & Barbers

Candidate Information Bulletin

YOUR GUIDE TO TEST DAY

This bulletin contains everything you need to register, schedule, prepare for, and take your licensing examination. Read this bulletin in full before you register.

Document Information

Read this bulletin in full before you register. It explains how to apply, how to schedule, what to bring, what is on each examination, and what happens after you test.

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1. Frequently Asked Questions

If your question is not answered here, read the relevant section of this bulletin, then contact the Board or Prov using the details in Section 2.

1. What is the registration process?

Complete the appropriate application with the Board. Once your application is approved for examination, you will be notified and you may contact Prov to schedule your exam.

2. How do I schedule my test? Once you've been approved by the Board you may schedule at:

<https://new.provexam.com/scheduler>

You may also call/text us at (801) 733-4455. More information about exam scheduling is provided in this bulletin.

3. Where can I test? You may test at any one of Prov's 3 Computer Based Testing (CBT) testing centers in South Dakota. Locations are provided later in this bulletin. Exams may also be taken remotely from home.

4. How much does it cost? Exam fees are paid to Prov at the time of registration. Fees vary by exam and are listed in the exam table below.

5. When do I get my test results? Prov's scoring system grades your exam immediately upon completion and automatically forwards results to your licensing authority.

6. What is on the test? Exam information is provided in this bulletin.

Note

Prov is not authorized to make the determination of which examination(s) candidates must take. If a candidate is unsure which exam is needed for the license being sought, resolve this question before scheduling. Contact the Board with questions regarding which exam(s) to take.

2. Contact Information

Please read through this bulletin completely for answers to your questions. If you still have unanswered questions, you may contact us at the following:

EXAM APPROVAL & LICENSING

South Dakota Cosmetology Commission & Barbers

217 W Missouri Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

Ph: (605) 773-6193

<https://dlr.sd.gov>

TESTING QUESTIONS

Prov, Inc.

200 W Civic Center Dr, Suite 160

Sandy, Utah 84070

Call or Text: (801) 733-4455

(Messaging rates may apply)

www.provexam.com

support@provexam.com

6:00 am to 10:00 pm MT and 7:00 am to 11:00 pm CT,
Monday - Friday

3. General Testing Information

The Board has contracted with Prov, Inc. to administer the required written examinations for licensure. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide you with information about taking your licensing examination.

Testing with Prov

Your written exam will be administered by computer at one of Prov's testing centers. Prov's testing system is easy to use and requires no specific computer experience to take the test.

Written exams may also be taken remotely from home. More information about remote testing is provided in the section titled "Remote Testing".

The following link will take you to a short video that demonstrates Prov's testing system:

<https://youtu.be/h3T9svnldLY>.

Where to take your exam in South Dakota

Prov has **3** testing locations in South Dakota where you may take your written examination. Locations are provided later in this bulletin.

Remote Testing

Prov is also authorized to offer these exams remotely. This means examinations can be taken at home (or any other quiet site with adequate internet speed and free from distractions). This space must be private and is not available to anyone other than the testing candidate during testing. You will use the [Examroom.ai](#) remote proctoring tool.

More information about remote testing is provided on the following pages of this bulletin.

4. Registration and Scheduling

How to register, schedule your examination, and change or cancel a testing appointment.

4.1 How to register with the Board

Complete the appropriate application with the Board. Once your application is approved for examination, you will be notified and you may contact Prov to schedule your exam.

Once registered and approved by the Board, a Voucher Letter from Prov will be received confirming approval. This Voucher Letter will contain the Candidate ID number that is used to sign in and schedule your exam.

4.2 Scheduling your exam online

Once approved by the Board, you will receive an email from Prov notifying you that you have been approved. Use the information in this letter to schedule your examination.

1. To schedule your exam, go to: <https://new.provexam.com/scheduler>. From our homepage, select "**Schedule a Test**". Next, under "**Returning User**", click "**Get Started**".
2. Enter your Email Address, as well as your Last Name. Then press the **NEXT** button. A verification code will be sent to your email.
3. After entering the code, you will see the Candidate Dashboard and your available exams. Click "**Schedule Now**".
4. Underneath "**Exams Available for Scheduling**", click "**Find a suitable time and venue**".
5. Prov's scheduling system will search for the closest testing centers to the address you entered. Select the **SCHEDULE** hyperlink to check the calendar for a specific testing center.
6. Select a test **date** and **time** from the calendar. Confirm your selected date and time and select **Add to Cart**.

7. Proceed to payment with your electronic payment method (MasterCard, Visa, AMEX) or coupon code if provided. The invoice for your exam payment will be automatically emailed to you.

If you have any problems with online scheduling, you may call or text Prov at (801) 733-4455.

4.3 Scheduling by phone

To schedule an examination by phone, candidates should contact Prov at (801) 733-4455. Prov scheduling staff is available 6:00 am to 10:00 pm MT and 7:00 am to 11:00 pm CT, Monday - Friday.

Candidates should have the photo identification they will use for testing, as well as their payment method, ready to provide to the call center agent. Once scheduled, Prov staff will email them information regarding their testing schedule.

4.4 Cancellation and rescheduling

You can reschedule or cancel your testing appointment online for free if you do so at least **3 days** before your test date. If you miss your appointment or fail to reschedule or cancel by this deadline, you will forfeit your exam fee.

4.5 Emergency situations

If you are unable to attend your scheduled examination due to an emergency, you must provide written documentation to Prov for review. You may call or text Prov at (801) 733-4455 or send an email to support@provexam.com. If approved, you will be notified and provided with authorization to reschedule your examination.

5. Exam Information

5.1 Study aids and practice exams

Prov offers a digital practice examination for the following exams. A practice exam helps you become familiar with the question format and the subject areas tested; it is not a substitute for studying the references listed for your examination. Purchase it in the Prov bookstore at <https://new.provexam.com/bookstore> or by calling (801) 733-4455, then take it online from your Prov account.

- **Cosmetology Practice Exam** — prepares you for Cosmetology.
- **Instructor Practice Exam** — prepares you for Instructor 2022.
- **Nail Technology Practice Exam** — prepares you for Nail Technology 2025.
- **Barber Styling Practice Exam** — prepares you for Barber Styling 2023.
- **Esthetician Practice Exam** — prepares you for Esthetics 2025.

The following examinations are administered by Prov on behalf of the Board, grouped by the license each is required for. An examination required for several licenses is listed under each of them.

Barber Stylist (English, Español, □□□, Tiếng Việt)

Examination	Time	Questions	Passing Score	Language(s)	Fee
Barber Styling 2023	90 min	110	75	English, Español, □□□, Tiếng Việt	\$93.00

Cosmetologist (English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt)

Examination	Time	Questions	Passing Score	Language(s)	Fee
Cosmetology	90 min	110	75	English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt	\$93.00

Esthetician (English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt)

Examination	Time	Questions	Passing Score	Language(s)	Fee
Esthetics 2025	90 min	110	75	English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt	\$93.00

Instructor (English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt)

Examination	Time	Questions	Passing Score	Language(s)	Fee
Instructor 2022	90 min	85	75	English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Tiếng Việt	\$93.00

Nail Technician (English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Русский, Tiếng Việt)

Examination	Time	Questions	Passing Score	Language(s)	Fee
Nail Technology 2025	90 min	110	75	English, Español, ភាសាខ្មែរ, Русский, Tiếng Việt	\$93.00

Note

Exam fees are paid to Prov at the time of registration. Fees vary by exam and are listed in the exam table below.

5.2 Cosmetology

90 minutes • 110 questions • passing score 75

Complete NIC Candidate Information Bulletin: [English](#) • [Español](#) • [Tiếng Việt](#) • [ភាសាខ្មែរ](#)

10 questions are unscored pilot questions and won't count toward your score.

Select a subject area to open its detailed outline online.

Content Area	% of Questions
Scientific Concepts	35%
Hair Care and Services	45%
Skin Care and Services	10%
Nail Care and Services	10%
Total questions	110

5.3 Instructor 2022

90 minutes • 85 questions • passing score 75

Complete NIC Candidate Information Bulletin: [English](#) • [Español](#) • [Tiếng Việt](#) • [ភាសាខ្មែរ](#)

10 questions are unscored pilot questions and won't count toward your score.

Select a subject area to open its detailed outline online.

Content Area	% of Questions
Instruction Planning	33%
Instruction Methods	33%
Theory and Practical Classroom	33%
Total questions	85

5.4 Nail Technology 2025

90 minutes • 110 questions • passing score 75

Complete NIC Candidate Information Bulletin: [English](#) • [Español](#) • [Tiếng Việt](#) • [Русский](#) • _____

10 questions are unscored pilot questions and won't count toward your score.

Select a subject area to open its detailed outline online.

Content Area	% of Questions
1. SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (40%)	40%
2. NAIL TECHNOLOGY PROCEDURES (60%)	60%
Total questions	110

5.5 Barber Styling 2023

90 minutes • 110 questions • passing score 75

Complete NIC Candidate Information Bulletin: [English](#) • [Español](#) • [Tiếng Việt](#) • [فارسی](#) • _____

10 questions are unscored pilot questions and won't count toward your score.

Select a subject area to open its detailed outline online.

Content Area	% of Questions
Scientific Concepts	35%
Implements and Equipment	10%
Hair Care Services	40%
Facial Hair and Skin Care Services	15%
Total questions	110

Exam References and Study Materials

The references marked "Open Book" are permitted for use during the examination. All other references are recommended for exam preparation only and are not permitted during the examination.

- **Fundamentals:Barbering**, 2022. Pivot-Point International, 8725 West Higgins Road, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60631.
STUDY ONLY
- **Milady Standard Barbering 2022**, 6th Ed. ISBN: 1305100557. Cengage Learning, PO Box 6904, Florence, KY 41022-6904.
STUDY ONLY

5.6 Esthetics 2025

90 minutes • 110 questions • passing score 75

Complete NIC Candidate Information Bulletin: [English](#) • [Español](#) • [Tiếng Việt](#) • _____

10 questions are unscored pilot questions and won't count toward your score.

Select a subject area to open its detailed outline online.

Content Area	% of Questions
1. SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS (55%)	55%
2. SKIN CARE AND SERVICES (45%)	45%
Total questions	110

6. Test Day Rules and Procedures

What to bring, what to leave behind, and the rules every candidate must follow on test day.

6.1 Test site testing – check-in deadline

The doors to each testing center will open at least 15 minutes before all scheduled testing appointments to check candidates into the testing center. You should plan to arrive early to make sure you are seated by the time the testing begins. If you arrive late, AND the testing session has already begun, YOU WILL BE TURNED AWAY, will forfeit your exam fee, and will be required to reschedule for a future testing date.

6.2 What is Examroom?

Examroom is a remote test monitoring service that allows you to take your test on your own computer at your home. On test day, you log into the Examroom website and request to start your exam. A test proctor will greet you over your computer, will verify your identity, take your picture, and observe you throughout the testing process.

Not every computer system is capable of taking a test on Examroom. The following are the **MINIMUM** requirements:

- The operating system on computer needs to be recent (less than 3-4 years old)
- Works on a MAC, PC, or Chromebook
- Need either a Chrome or Firefox browser (Chrome works best)
- Need a functioning computer web-camera and microphone
- Need a good consistent Internet connection capable of uploading files in excess of 3 Mbps

Please do a system check before scheduling: <https://examroom.ai/systemtest/>

If you do not have access to equipment that meets the minimum requirements, Prov has laptops available for use. To request access, call (866) 720-7768.

6.3 Remote testing information

By choosing to test remotely, you agree to abide by the following conditions:

1. You will need to be in a quiet, distraction-free environment.
2. You need to sit at a table, desk, or counter.
3. Your table or desk needs to be completely clear of anything you are not permitted to use during testing.
4. All non-testing electronic equipment needs to be removed from the room.
5. All windows in the testing room must be covered.
6. Your area under your table, desk, or chair needs to be clear of everything.
7. Your work area needs to be obstruction free so that we can see you, your arms and hands, throughout the entire testing process.

8. You are not permitted to have anyone in the room with you, nor can you receive any aid from anyone during the test.
9. You are not permitted to access any other website during testing unless directed by the system.
10. If requested to download a special extension on your computer, you will not tamper with it or try to disable it while testing.

6.4 Exam day procedures

On the day of your exam:

1. Head to <https://provexam.com>
2. Click "Start My Test" from the home page menu
3. Review the instructions on the page and click "Start My Test" to be directed to <https://examroom.ai/login/>
4. Enter the email address you used to register for your test
5. Enter your candidate ID as your password
6. You will be greeted by an onboarding agent to help you check-in and start your test

6.5 Proof of identity

You will be required to show government-issued, photo-bearing identification that includes your signature. Your first and last name on your ID MUST match the name on your admission documents. The photo-bearing ID must be current and valid. Forms of valid photo-bearing ID are a driver's license, passport, or military ID. Temporary IDs must have a photo to be accepted. Expired IDs will NOT be accepted. Please contact Prov in advance of your test date if you have any questions regarding your photo ID. You will also be required to sign a test center log and will be photographed by the test center staff. If you cannot produce a valid government-issued photo ID, refuse to participate in signing as instructed or refuse to be photographed, you will be dismissed from the testing center and forfeit all testing fees for that testing session.

6.6 Prohibited items

No cameras, recorders, cell phones, computers, pagers, tablet computers, music players, smart watches, radios, electronic games, or any other electronic devices are allowed in the testing room. Talking and smoking are not allowed in the testing room.

Additionally, other personal items such as purses, notebooks, references or study materials, briefcases, backpacks, wallets, pens, pencils, other writing devices, food or any other items should be placed in secure storage at the testing facility.

For exam security you may also be asked to remove articles of clothing that may pose a security risk such as the following:

- Bulky clothing, scarves, hoodies, shawls, vests, jackets, coats, and so forth.
- Hats or headgear not associated with religious reasons.
- Any other clothing or device that may be interpreted as having the potential to compromise the testing process.

Important

We ask that you leave all unauthorized materials in your car or vehicle. If you are caught using unauthorized materials during testing, these materials will be confiscated, your testing will be terminated with your exam fee forfeited, and the State will be notified of your dismissal from the exam.

6.7 Visitors

No one other than the candidate will be allowed in the testing room.

6.8 Unethical conduct

Any individual caught giving or receiving assistance during or after the examination or caught using unauthorized materials during the examination will be reported directly to the Board. Those caught in the act of cheating will be dismissed from the examination and their testing results will be frozen. Furthermore, the candidate will forfeit the examination fees paid. Finally, anyone caught with test questions in their possession, either during or following the examination will be prosecuted by Prov for theft of copyrighted testing materials.

6.9 Candidate civility expectations

We understand that taking a test can be stressful. Sometimes this stress may cause someone to visibly show their frustration during or after the testing event. While we understand the sources of stress, we find any action that threatens our proctors or examiners to be unacceptable. If a candidate verbally or physically threatens or assaults any of our proctors or examiners, that candidate may be banned from testing for a time. The candidate's actions will be reported to the licensing Board or agency. If any physical harm occurs, civil action may also be taken against the candidate.

7. Results, Retesting, and Exam Challenges

7.1 Results reporting

Prov's scoring system grades your exam immediately upon completion and automatically forwards results to your licensing authority.

7.2 Retesting

If you do not pass, you must wait 30 days before retesting. A new approval from your licensing authority is required before each attempt.

Candidates cannot retake an exam once they have passed unless required by their licensing authority.

8. Non-Discrimination and ADA Accommodations

8.1 Prov's non-discrimination statement

Prov provides equal access to its exams and testing programs for all eligible persons. Although individual jurisdictions that Prov represents are wholly responsible for determining eligibility of candidates, it is the policy of Prov to maintain an environment free of discrimination and to prohibit discrimination and harassment against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and veteran, marital or family status.

Harassment of Prov program participants, proctors, staff or candidates will not be tolerated. If candidates wish to express concerns about discrimination, they should contact Prov at (801) 733-4455 or write to: Prov, Inc., 200 W Civic Center Dr, Suite 160, Sandy, UT 84070.

8.2 Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations

Prov complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in providing special accommodations. Written documentation from a licensed physician or psychologist documenting the disability and the recommended

accommodations is required, and Prov will work directly with you to arrange the approved accommodations.

To learn more or request an accommodation, visit our ADA Accommodations page at provexam.com/ada-accommodations.

Note

Accommodations will not be provided based solely on a candidate's inability to read and comprehend English.

9. South Dakota Test Site Locations

The following are the testing sites where you may schedule to take your written examination in South Dakota. You may also test at any Prov testing center in the United States, and remote testing is available at all times.

Note that sites may change as needed. Please refer to the current online scheduling system at provexam.com to find available testing times for each location.

Prov has **3** testing centers in South Dakota, located in the following cities:

Brookings, Rapid City and Watertown

No.	City	Testing Center	Address
1	Brookings	South Dakota State University	1100 College Avenue Testing Center Brookings, SD 57007
2	Rapid City	Western Dakota Technical College	800 Mickelson Drive Testing Center Rapid City, SD 57703
3	Watertown	Lake Area Technical College	1201 Arrow Avenue Testing Center A - Industry Testing Watertown, SD 57201

Remote Testing is available via [Examroom.ai](https://examroom.ai) — take your exam from home without traveling to a testing center. See the "Remote Testing" sections earlier in this bulletin for full requirements.

10. Testing Rules and System Navigation

Please take a moment to read the following information. If you have any questions, please let your proctor know. Failure to follow these testing rules can have serious consequences.

Be advised, the testing center and testing room may be under video surveillance.

10.1 Testing rules

- Be courteous and do not disturb others.
- After you are seated, follow all the instructions given and verify the information presented to you. This information will include your name, candidate ID, exam name, and occasionally additional testing materials such as graphics.
- If you leave the testing room during the test, you must notify your proctor and turn in all your testing materials.
- You may take up to 1 break during your examination. Please note that when you take a break you will not be able to change any answers to questions you have previously seen or review any prior answers to questions.
- If you take a restroom break the test time will continue to countdown and the lost time cannot be recovered.

- If your computer freezes, shuts down, or will not move to the next question notify your proctor immediately and they will be able to restart your exam without loss of available testing time.
- At the end of your test, remain seated, raise your hand and wait for the proctor to start the check-out process with you. Once all testing materials have been accounted for by your proctor, you may collect your belongings and leave the testing center.
- Please visit provexam.com and select "Learn about my test" for additional information.

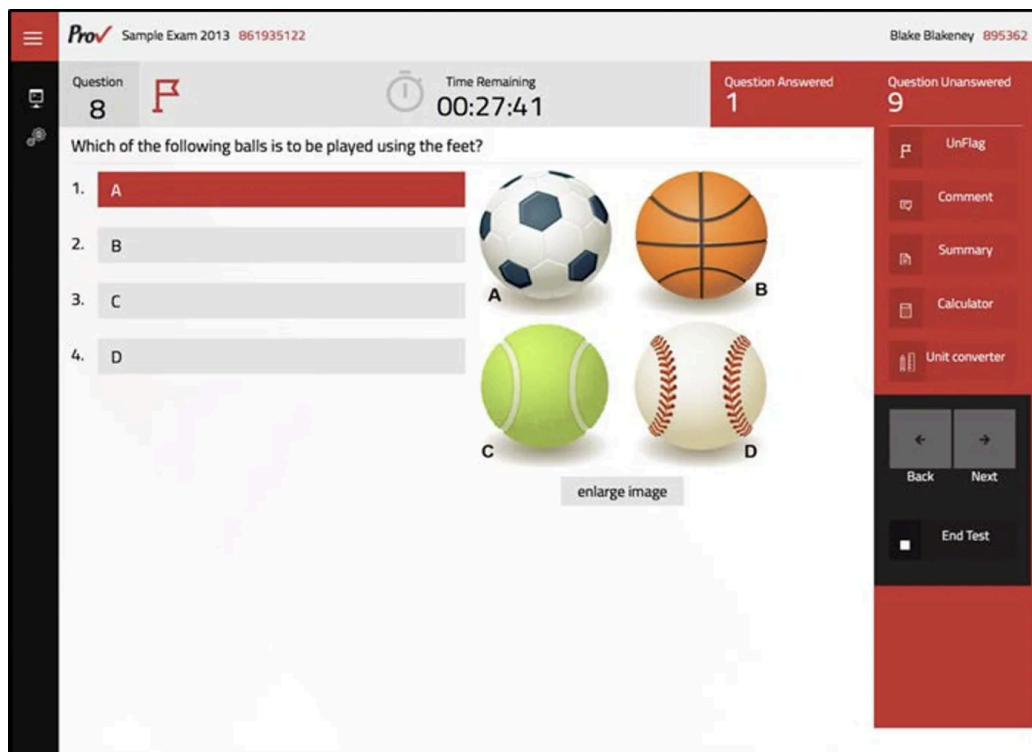
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ■ No Talking | ■ No Eating |
| ■ No Drinking | ■ No Tobacco Use |
| ■ No Electronic Devices | ■ No Visitors |
| ■ No Cheating | ■ No Taking Notes |

Important — Unethical behavior

Individuals caught giving or receiving assistance during or after the examination, or caught using unauthorized materials during the examination will be reported to the Board. Those caught in the act of cheating will be dismissed from the examination and their testing results will be frozen. Furthermore, the candidate will forfeit the examination fees paid. Finally, anyone caught with test questions in their possession, either during or following the examination will be prosecuted by Prov for theft of copyrighted testing materials.

10.2 Computer testing navigation

Please review the following guide to understand how to navigate the Prov computer-based testing system.



Feature

How it works

Total number of questions

Indicated in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Feature	How it works
Available time	Posted in hours and minutes. The test will end automatically when Time Remaining reaches 0:00.
Selecting your answer	Use your mouse to select a number (1, 2, 3, or 4). The answer is highlighted (or checked) when selected. You may change your selected answer for any question until the test is over. If you do not know the answer to a question, it is to your advantage to guess, since there is no penalty for a wrong answer.
Tracking difficult questions	Press the Flag Button to help you keep track of questions you wish to return to at a later time. Flagging questions has no impact on scoring. Press the button again to Unflag the question. You may see which questions have been flagged by clicking Summary .
Question comments	During the assessment, if you have a question or concern about a particular test question, the proctor cannot answer questions about test content; however, you can send a comment to Prov's Test Development Department by clicking the Comment button. Please leave a specific description. Staff will process your comments within two weeks.
Moving to a different question	Use your mouse to select the Next or Back buttons. Press Next to move forward. Press Back to move backward. You may also use your arrow keys (← →) to move forward and backward through the test.
Reviewing your progress	Press the Summary button to see a table indicating which questions are unanswered or which you have flagged.
Ending the test early	Press End Test button when you are ready to leave the test. It is recommended that you review your exam and verify there are no unanswered questions prior to ending the test.

11. Revision History

The table below lists every revision to this bulletin, most recent last.

Version	Date	Description of Change	Prepared By
1.0	October 7, 2026	Initial release of the redesigned candidate bulletin (SD CIB 2026.10.07).	Prov, Inc.

In the next few days, Prov will email you a link to our candidate experience survey, please let us know how we did!