

2017 MASSACHUSETTS COSMETOLOGY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING SKILLS

We are aware that you have several questions concerning the scenarios. Please check this FAQ listing before sending any inquiries. Some of you have already submitted your questions and we have addressed them below. Please be aware that this is a NATIONAL exam. Each of the skills have been reviewed by participants from many states, including Massachusetts. All scenarios for the general levels, MANICURISTS, AESTHETICIANS and OPERATORS were founded on a panel of five (5) different states at a weeklong review meeting.

NOTE: Live Models are required for all skills. See requirements in handbook for models.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION

- 1. Will printed applications be accepted at the test site?*
The Board would prefer that you use the printed (colored) applications. However, they will accept a printed copy as long as the application has an original verification signed and stamped by your school.
- 2. Do we still have to have two forms of ID?*
Yes, this is correct. Please read full instructions in 2017 MA Candidate Handbook.
- 3. Do the evaluators still check the haircuts and chemicals?*
Yes.
- 4. What if I forget something on my supply list?*
If a candidate forgets to bring the required supplies, they will be marked accordingly. If the candidate shows up to the practical examination with no supplies at all, they will be disqualified. Fees will apply.
- 5. Can a candidate fail if they do not have all containers labeled? Even if it is one product?*
The supply list explains exactly what must be labeled. Please read it carefully. All the items that are required must be labeled or the candidate will be marked no on the skill set. The entire examination is based on an established cut score. If they fail too many steps within the skill, it is a possibility that they will fail the whole examination.

6. *Is there a timeframe involved in all of the scenarios? And does that include the set up and the take down?*
Yes, the timeframes include set up and take down of supplies. Please read the skills and timeframes carefully.
7. *Can I use a debit card as my secondary identification?*
If that identification card has the same name as your primary ID and signature.
8. *Can students use their driving permits as a government form of identification when they arrive at the test center?*
The permit must be government issued, not expired and have a photo with signature. If it doesn't have these qualities, it cannot be used.
9. *If I fail the Infection Control and Safety Skill, do I fail the entire exam?*
Yes. Starting April 1, 2017, candidates must pass Infection Control and Safety and the overall skills for their practical exam. If a candidate passes the skills but does NOT pass Infection Control and Safety, the candidate will be required to retest on the entire exam. The failing score report will indicate whether the candidate has failed Infection Control and Safety, the practical skills themselves, or both.

INFECTIOIN CONTROL AND SAFETY

1. *In each of the skill sets it does not tell us to sanitize hands and clean the tabletop, do we only have to do it one time?*
Candidates are required to sanitize their hands and tabletop at the beginning and end of all the skills, unless hands or table become unsanitary for any reason. If in doubt, sanitize!
2. *What if the candidate only has one cape and needs to re-use it?*
The skills are based on act you are performing. Chemical capes are required for chemicals. If a cape drops to the floor, the candidate should re-sanitize it and the hands before returning to the skill.
3. *Does the trash have to be sealed after every skill?*
No.
4. *Does the "soiled" container have to be sealed after every skill?*
No.
5. *I see that you have added a First Aid Kit, why?*
Just as in the salon, a candidate or a model may be cut during a procedure. The first aid kit should be used to clean and attend to the wound.

6. *Why can't items I bring in be returned to the disinfected bag?*
Once an item is used, it is no longer disinfected unless the candidate wants to take the time to disinfect that item. Otherwise all items used must be placed in the soiled container. If the candidate does have to re-use that item, they need to spray it off with disinfectant/sanitizer.
7. *What do I do if I cut my model or myself??*
It is mandatory that you have a first aid kit included in your supplies. Universal Precautions should be adhered to when a candidate or model is cut.
1. Gloves
 2. Wipe down wound with antiseptic
 3. Bandage
 4. Place items in bio hazard baggie.
 5. Place bio hazard baggie in another baggie.
 6. Dispose in your own trash.
- Blood borne pathogen refuse should not be left at the test site under any circumstances. It should be removed and taken with the candidate. Remember, no extra time is given for an accident, so be aware of your time. No, the candidate will not fail if they take the proper steps in cleaning the wound and disposal of blood borne pathogenic material. However, they may have to go home without finishing the skill if the cut is too serious.
8. *Do I still have to re-sanitize my hands if I pick up a dropped item from the floor and it is placed in the trash?*
Think of the skills as if you were working on a client. You would wash your hands if you pick up things off the floor or put things in the trashcan.
9. *What is the difference between the disinfected and soiled bags?*
The disinfected bag is where all of your clean and sanitized implements, supplies, and products will be when you arrive at the test site. Once they are removed from that bag, you never put them back into that bag, unless you re-sanitize them first. Otherwise, ALL ITEMS that have been used in any manner go into the separate bag labeled: Soiled.
10. *Will the infection control and safety components be a separate skill or will they be incorporated into each practical section?*
The safety and infection control components will be evaluated throughout all phases of the examination.
11. *What do I label my bottle to clean my tabletops?*
Bottle should be labeled: "Disinfectant/Sanitizer" as provided on the supply list.

12. *What does the term "Prevents Cross-Contamination" mean?*
Disposable items are not used more than one time, such as towels, spatulas, and cotton rounds. Bottles should be pumps or product removed with a spatula that can be thrown away and not "double-dipped." All these are forms of preventing cross contamination.
13. *What do I do if I drop an item on the floor that I need to use? Can I kick it to the side?*
The candidate should pick the item up immediately, re-sanitize it if it needs to be used, re-sanitize hands and finish the skill.

HAIRCUTTING

1. *Is the haircut still a 90 degree haircut?*
The basic layered haircut is a blended 90 degree haircut.
2. *Can we leave 5" of hair on the head?*
Task #14 of MA Candidate Handbook states: Removes a minimum of 1/4" of hair.
3. *Can any drape be used on haircutting?*
A neck strip and a cutting cape are required for the haircutting skill. A towel is not acceptable, nor a sheet. Please read the supply list carefully.
4. *During the haircutting practical, do I need to complete a zero degree haircut before completing the layered haircut?*
No. A candidate completes a 90 degree, basic layered (uniform) haircut.

THERMAL STYLING

1. *How many curls are actually required for the Thermal Styling procedure?*
See Thermal Styling Section. The candidate is required to do 2 on base curls, and 2 off base curls.
2. *I was told by my instructor it was better not to have a model that had long hair for the thermal styling. Is this correct?*
Since the candidate is required to have 2 on base curls and 2 off base curls, it is much easier to perform this skill if the hair is not longer than 6-7 inches.

3. *May I use a towel to drape around my model's neck during the Thermal Styling?*
Please read the supply list. A neckstrip and hairstyling cape are required for the skill.

CHEMICAL SERVICES

1. *Do we still have to pull color or bleach through the ends on a virgin application?*
Yes.
2. *Can I use the same bowl I have for Chemical Relaxing and Chemical Relaxer Retouch?*
Yes. Label bowl: Chemical Relaxer. This is not the same bowl you use for any other skill.
3. *During the haircoloring application portion of the practical exam, can students use the same bowl for both haircolor re-touch and highlighting?*
Candidates may use the same bowl for highlighting and color. This is not the same bowl you use for chemical relaxing or other tasks.
4. *On the chemical relaxer, it states: Apply base cream to hairline and ears. Does that mean we do NOT have to go down each parting?*
That is correct. See Chemical Relaxer skill. The skill does not preclude you from doing this, but you must finish skill on time or you will be marked to the steps you did not complete.
5. *Is it true we only have to wrap 3 perm rods?*
That is correct. See Permanent Wave section of your Candidate handbook.
6. *Are all the chemical products mock?*
Yes, the chemicals are mock. Please read your supply list for further information.
7. *Will the evaluator still have us check our perm rods and tell us when to do a test curl?*
Yes. See Permanent wave skill.
8. *Do I still have to have 9 sections parted for the permanent wave skill?*
Yes, the State Board requires that you have a 9 section parting for your permanent wave skill.

BRAIDING

1. *Does the French braid have to fill the whole quadrant?*
Yes.
2. *Can I braid the same quadrant I just used in thermal styling?*
Yes.
3. *What is the definition of an underhand or overhand braid?*
The braid may be invisible or visible.

FINGER WAVING AND PIN CURLS

1. *What direction should the pin curls face?*
There should be 3 ridges of finger waves and 2 "c" shapings placed into pin curls (one forward and one reverse) when the candidate has completed the skills. There is no preference in which direction you sculpt the waves/curls

SHAMPOOING

1. *Do we have to condition the hair after we shampoo it because there is such a short time for shampooing?*
No.
2. *Do we have to clean the sink out after shampooing?*
You are still required to do the necessary sanitizing after shampooing.

BASIC FACIAL, FACIAL CLEANSING, MASQUE, MANIPULATIONS

1. *How do we remove product from the model?*
Please see skill step. Astringent or toner is used on cotton pads to remove product
2. *Do we still just do the manipulations one time?*
Yes.
3. *Can we still bring in wet cotton rounds for the eye pads on the masque application?*
Yes. See Supply List.

4. *Does the masque have to be applied to the neck and chest?*
No.
5. *Are we expect to drape with a head band, cap and a drape across the chest?*
Yes. See supply list.
6. *Are we expected to bring in a magnifying loupe?*
No, an inexpensive magnifying glass will suffice.
7. *Do we really have to talk to the model on the skin analysis?*
Yes, you must recommend services and products.

HAIR REMOVAL

1. *Is it true that we only have to perform hair removal, waxing or tweezing on one eyebrow?*
Yes. Please see eyebrow skill set.
2. *Because we are only doing one eyebrow, can we shape the other brow the night before the exam?*
Yes, that is acceptable.
3. *Can we use a cold wax without strips to perform waxing?*
No. Strips are a required item.
4. *Why do we have to wear gloves on hair removal?*
Universal Precautions.
5. *Will the candidate be marked if they do not wear gloves?*
Yes.
6. *Does the model have to be draped during hair removal?*
The MA Candidate handbook supply list and skills do not require draping for hair removal.

MAKEUP APPLICATION

1. *Does Pearson VUE recommend using powder makeup?*
Recommend, but not required. Powder makeup is easily blended and takes less time than liquid, but that does not preclude the candidate from bringing other forms.

2. *Will a candidate fail if only one cosmetic product is not labeled?*
All candidates are scored on a level of cut scores. They will be marked accordingly. If they fail too many steps, they may fail the examination.
3. *Step # 5 under Task #3 Makeup Application, on the Operator skill states: Applies eyebrow pencil. Is that a misprint or are we doing eyebrow pencil instead of eyeliner?*
Eyebrow pencil is required. The pencil is sanitized with a disinfected sharpener.
4. *If mascara is a required cosmetic, how do we apply it to a model and be sanitary?*
Use a mascara wand instead of the wand that comes with the mascara. Remember do not pump applicator or double dip into the product.
5. *Can a candidate do both eyes with mascara with only one dip of the wand?*
Yes.

BASIC MANICURE, ARTIFICIAL ENHANCEMENTS, POLISH APPLICATION

1. *Do we still have to have a bowl with water on the basic manicure?*
Yes, please read supply list carefully.
2. *Can we bring in water already bottled, so we don't have to go get water?*
Nothing precludes the candidate from bringing in their own water.
3. *Task #4 on the Operator skill, step #10 states to dry client's hand and nails. Do we have to have a towel for this?*
Yes, either a paper towel or a cloth towel is recommended.
4. *Do we have to do both hands on the manicure?*
No, only one hand is required.
5. *How many sets of manicuring implements should a candidate bring?*
A candidate may re-use the manicuring implements if they disinfect by spraying down implement with disinfectant/sanitizer, so only one set is required.

6. *Are we expected to bring real polish remover and polish?*
The candidate is expected to bring real products for the polish application and remover. A polish correction pen for the removal on sidewalls of nails is optional.
7. *How do we remove the excess polish from the skin?*
With the polish correction pen or an orangewood stick and polish remover.
8. *Does the entire table have to be covered with paper for the manicure?*
No, the table has already been sprayed with disinfectant/sanitizer. If in doubt, you may disinfect/sanitize again.
9. *Do we actually cut the cuticles?*
A candidate is to "mock" demonstrate the ability to trim excess cuticle.
10. *Can a candidate use glass files?*
Nothing precludes a candidate from using glass files.