

Do You Need a License to Braid Hair?

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Here's a look at the requirements in all 50 states as of **2016**, the last year for which data was available.

State	License	Training Hours
Alabama	Hair braiding license	210
Alaska	Cosmetology license	1,650
Arizona	Not required	Not required
Arkansas	Not required	Not required
California	Not required	Not required
Colorado	Not required	Not required
Connecticut	Not required	Not required
Delaware	Not required	Not required
District of Columbia	Hair braiding license	100
Florida	Hair braiding license	16
Georgia	Not required	Not required
Hawaii	Cosmetology license	1,250
Idaho	Cosmetology license	2,000
Illinois	Hair braiding license	300
Indiana	Cosmetology license	1,500
Iowa	Registration	Not required
Kansas	Not required	Not required
Kentucky	Not required	Not required
Louisiana	Hair braiding license	500
Maine	Not required	Not required
Maryland	Not required	Not required
Massachusetts	Cosmetology license	1,000
Michigan	Not required	Not required
Minnesota*	Hair braiding license	30
Mississippi	Registration	Not required
Missouri	Cosmetology license	1,220
Montana	Cosmetology license	2,000
Nebraska	Not required	Not required
Nevada	Hair braiding license	250
New Hampshire	Cosmetology license	1,500
New Jersey	Cosmetology license	1,200
New Mexico	Cosmetology license	1,600

New York	Hair braiding license	300
North Carolina	Hair braiding license	300
North Dakota	Cosmetology license	1,800
Ohio	Hair braiding license	450
Oklahoma	Hair braiding license	600
Oregon	Hair braiding license	Complete online module and exam
Pennsylvania	Hair braiding license	300
Rhode Island	Cosmetology license	1,500
South Carolina	Hair braiding license	6
South Dakota	Cosmetology license	2,100
Tennessee	Hair braiding license	300
Texas	Not required	Not required
Utah	Not required	Not required
Vermont	Cosmetology license	1,500
Virginia	Not required	Not required
Washington	Not required	Not required
West Virginia	Not required	Not required
Wisconsin	Cosmetology license	1,550
Wyoming	Cosmetology license	1,000
*Minnesota Cosmetology Board claims to have no enforcement authority over this braiding license		

These are the basic requirements for each:

- **Cosmetology license:** To earn a cosmetology license you need to complete a training program that satisfies your state's licensing requirements. These requirements generally stipulate the number of training hours—typically between 1,400 and 1,600 hours—and the required testing.
- **Hair braiding license:** A hair-braiding license requires far fewer training hours. Texas, for example, requires 35 hours.
- **Registration:** Some states simply require braiding professionals to register with their state board, which often requires a fee.

Because requirements are changing, it is important that you check with your state board so you know what you have to do to work in your state legally.