

Certificate of Qualification in Nail Technology

Revised Dec. 8, 2020

Who can register?

Anyone can register to challenge the BeautyCouncil Certificate of Qualification - Nail Technician Exam, provided you have completed 400 school hours or 1000 work experience hours in the trade of nail services.

The exam is thorough and vigorous.

We encourage all registrants to earn a diploma from a PTIB accredited cosmetology school prior to taking the exam. All other registrants are welcome to challenge the exam, provided you have completed 400 school hours or 1000 work experience hours. By registering online to take the exam, you are attesting to having completed these hours. You will upload your paperwork (or diploma) confirming your hours after you register.

The reference textbook is Milady Standard Nail Technology, 8th edition: [Link](#)

Exam cost (price includes GST)

- \$200 for BeautyCouncil Members
- \$300 for non-members

Registrants who do not pass the exam may apply to retake failed portion(s) of the exam (theory, practical, or both) within 2 years (no limit on the number of retakes). Retakes are \$100 (includes GST). A pass requires a score of 70% or higher.

The exam takes place in a single day as outlined in the exam date registration page. There are two parts to the exam and both are at the venue listed in your confirmation email.

Theory - This is a 30 question, 1 hour multiple choice exam provided by BeautyCouncil. You must score a minimum of 70% to pass this exam.

Practical - This is a 3 hour, in-person exam at a location listed on your registration email. You perform work on your model according to the exam outline below. An examiner will oversee your work and score your work as you complete it. You must score a minimum of 70% to pass this exam.

Steps to earn your Certificate of Qualification in Esthetics:

1. Choose your desired exam date. If no dates are available, do not call the office. All available dates are posted on this calendar. We post new exams regularly.
2. Submit your complete and accurate details, and your payment. You will receive a confirmation email.
3. Upload your diploma(s), and/or proof of hours by navigating to the members page
4. Attend the exam as detailed in your confirmation email.

You will be notified of pass/fail via email, within 2-4 weeks. If you pass the exam, you will receive a digital certificate and a hardcopy certificate.

If you do not attend your scheduled exam, or arrive more than 15 minutes late, your exam fee will be forfeited. Cancellations must be given 72 hours in advance and can be done by logging in at www.beautycouncil.ca.

Attending the Exam

COVID-19 protocols are in place for all exams. All registrants, examiners, models, must wear a mask at all times. During segments of the exam where the model must remove the mask, the registrant will be required to wear a face shield in addition to a mask. You and your model will be asked to answer COVID-19 screening questions. Persons presenting with symptoms or having had recent exposure to COVID-19 will be asked to leave the premises and rebook at a later date. You will be required to sanitize your hands upon entry.

Registrants should wear clean, professional attire (uniforms are preferred for sanitation purposes). Registrants and models should turn off cell phones and devices and refrain from talking during the exam unless prompted by the examiner. Only registrants and models will be permitted to stay in the exam area. Models must not be beauty school students, beauty professionals, or be working or have experience in the beauty industry. Models should be free from artificial nail products and infections, and have fingernail polish on nails of one hand or one foot, have fingernails with a minimum free edge of ¼” and have cuticles which will permit demonstration of proper cuticle care; cuticles must not be pre-treated or pre-clipped.

- You and your model must arrive on time. Registrants who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted and will be required to reschedule for a later date.
- Present your valid government-issued Canadian photo ID, and your model’s photo ID. The name on the ID will appear on your certificate.
- Submit your model waiver form.

Please ensure you have everything on the equipment checklist provided. There will be a short lunch break. Please pack a lunch.

The Theory exam:

At the exam venue, you will take our multiple choice theory exam.

The Practical exam:

At the exam venue, you will perform the practical exam and be graded by our examiner.

1. General trade practices – evaluated concurrently. Less than 70% in this category = fail for the entire practical exam.

- Professional grooming
- Proper hygienic and sanitation procedures
- Communication with the examiner
- Demonstrates sanitation practices
- Professionalism

2. Basic Manicure (both hands) – 30 minutes

- Sanitary station set up
- Hygienic application procedures
- Removal of polish
- Demonstrate proper filing technique
- Demonstrate proper shaping technique
- Massage: fingertips to elbow, 4 or more massage movements
- Cuticle care, including cuticle remover, soaking, loosening, trimming

3. Artificial nails – 90 minutes

Please choose either gel or acrylic - Your choice:
3 nails with tips, 3 nails with forms, & full polish (red)

Candidates will use the thumb, index and middle fingers of each hand to demonstrate the following, and may choose between gel OR acrylic:

TIPS - Application of 3 gel OR acrylic nails

- Proper preparation of natural nail
- Extension of natural nail at least ¼”
- No visible free edge on nails to be used
- No white tips are permitted. Natural colour tips only.
- Length of finished nail must compliment length of other nails
- Proper fit & gluing of tip
- Blending of tip
- No glue residue on or under the nail

FORMS - Application of 3 gel OR acrylic nails

- Uniform smile lines, arch & c-curve
- Finished enhancements must be smooth, free of air bubbles, uniform, and natural in appearance
- Length of finished nail must compliment length of other nails
- No press-on tips
- Must use french white/pink combination.
- Application of base coat, red polish, and top coat.

4. Full pedicure & french polish (both feet) - 60 minutes

- Demonstrate soaking
- Application & removal of scrub
- Callous removal
- Proper filing
- Proper shaping techniques
- Cuticle care, including cuticle remover, soaking, loosening, trimming
- Massage toe to knees with 4 or more massage movements
- Polish; base coat, french style polish, top coat

Practical Examination Supplies and Checklist

BeautyCouncil provides these supplies:

- Bed
- Table
- Stool
- Chair
- Magnifying lamp
- Access to a sink with hot water

IMPORTANT: You must bring the following professional (not drug store) products and equipment to complete all exam services.

Products must be approved for sale in Canada (they must have English and French on the label, include metric measurements, and be approved for use on clients). Professional products can be purchased at beauty suppliers such as West Coast Beauty, Modern Beauty, CosmoProf, Icon, and more. Borrowing is prohibited.

- Government-issued photo ID
- Model release form
- Client consultation form
- Mask
- Face shield

- Gloves for pedicure
- Supply tray
- Polish remover
- Liquid soap for soaking
- Paper towels
- Nail files (natural & artificial)
- Massage cream or oil
- Hand sanitizer
- Foot sanitizer
- Cuticle pusher/orangewood sticks
- Cuticle remover
- Foot paddle
- Finger soaking bowl
- White sanitized towels
- Container for sterile implements
- Foot soaking tub

Continued....

- Small garbage bag
- Exfoliating pedicure scrub
- Cotton balls
- Container for soiled implements
- Tissue for toe separator
- Nail polish: base coat, red polish, french white/pink duo, top coat
- 3-6" extension cord (if using electrical equipment)
- Complete gel kit OR acrylic kit
- If needed, UV light

*No metal files or metal cuticle pushers are permitted

Registrant must disinfect table, chair, stool, and lamp, and remove their own garbage from the premises.

End of examination requirements

Candidate Number

MODEL WAIVER FORM

I, _____, having consented to act as a model for the purpose of enabling
(Name)
the candidate to try the qualifying examination at _____ on
(City or Town or Province)
_____, 20 ____ hereby acknowledge that the following matters are known and
(Month / Day)
understood by me.

- (a) That I (the model) currently am not nor have I ever been a service provider or student in the cosmetology industry (hair, esthetics, or nails) in any country. If it is determined that I am associated with the cosmetology industry in any way, the candidate will face disqualification.**

- (b) That I (the model) meet all requirements as dictated under health and safety (free from infections, broken skin, etc). And that I meet the required elements for the candidate to complete all competencies of this practical exam (nails the required length, hair for waxing, etc.). If these requirements are not met, the candidate will face disqualification.**

- (c) That BeautyCouncil™ does not guarantee or warranty that the aforesaid examination candidate possesses the requisite skills and competence to carry out any or all acts of esthetics and BeautyCouncil™ assumes no responsibility for any damage arising from any or all aspects of negligence on the part of the aforesaid candidate.**

First Witness Signature

Model Signature

Second Witness Signature

Model Address

Signed _____, 20 ____
(Month / Day)

[If model is under 19 years of age, a letter from the parent or guardian must accompany this form stating that they consent to the above. Model must be at least 16 years of age.]

This form MUST BE COMPLETED by model prior to the registration of candidate's exam.