

Out-of-State Transfer Regulation Changes, Effective December 3rd, 2025

On December 3rd, the proposed amendments to 201 KAR 12:030 will go into effect. Pending and future transfer applicants have more routes to qualify for reciprocity.

Pursuant to 201 KAR 12:030, Section 6(1) and (2): If the transferring state where the license is held required the same number of minimum hours that Kentucky requires AND that state required a practical and theory exam, then reciprocity will be instantly recognized.

WHAT'S CHANGED: PREVIOUSLY, KENTUCKY HAS REQUIRED PROOF OF A PASSING SCORE ON A BOARD-APPROVED NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED THEORY AND PRACTICAL EXAM. SOME STATES CREATED THEIR OWN PRACTICAL AND THEORY EXAMS, LEAVING IT OUTSIDE OF THE "NATIONAL" QUALIFICATION. TRANSFER APPLICANTS FROM THESE STATES NO LONGER HAVE TO SIGN UP AND PASS KENTUCKY'S EXAMS.

What the applicant will need to provide:

- The out-of-state transfer application
- The certified hours and examinations from the transfer state
- The license from the transfer state
- A copy of the applicant's high school diploma (or equivalent)
- Foreign education - Requires a United State translation from an official translation agency
- A copy of a government-issued ID

Pursuant to 201 KAR 12:030, Section 6(2): If the transferring state does NOT have the same minimum hour requirements and/or require a theory and practical exam, the applicant can provide proof of continuous practice for the last **two years** prior to the application for the Board to consider. **Please note, reciprocity is not as automatic as it is from states with the same hour and examination requirements.** Staff will review the paperwork and may

WHAT'S CHANGED: PREVIOUSLY, KENTUCKY DID NOT ACCOUNT FOR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. THIS IS AN ENTIRELY NEW ROUTE TO RECIPROCITY.

add it to the Board's monthly agendas for review. ***Approval through this route may take weeks.***

What the applicant will need to provide:

- The out-of-state transfer application
- The license from the transfer state
- Tax records which can be either
 - 1099s received as an independent contractor within a salon, or
 - Filed tax returns.
- A copy of the applicant's high school diploma (or equivalent)
- A copy of a government-issued ID

Fictional examples of how the changes at work:

Example 1: Cindylou sent in her application to transfer her cosmetology license from the state of Xanadu in August 2025. Even though she had 1500 hours, she was originally told that she would have to take the Kentucky exams as Xanadu issued their own practical and theory examinations that were not nationally recognized. With the new regulations in effect, Cindylou's proof of passing scores on the Xanadu exams are now accepted and her reciprocity was approved within the week after she submitted it.

Example 2: Apollonia has been a nail technician in her home state of Brigadoon for 16 years. Brigadoon did not offer exams and only required 300 hours for nail technology. When Apollonia applied, she provided her 1099s she kept when she worked for other salons and the tax returns she filed she owned her own nail salon. After the staff reviewed the information, Apollonia was approved.

Example 3: Mystique recently completed a program to be an esthetics instructor in 2025 and is licensed in her home state of Xavier. Mystique taught esthetics at a school for 4 months, but has no other work experience. Xavier only required 600 hours to be licensed as an esthetics instructor. After submitting her application and state-certified hours, Mystique was advised she would need to complete 150 more hours and pass Kentucky's exams. While she was not thrilled to attend and pay for more schooling, circumstances prevented her from working 20 more months in Xavier as an instructor. Mystique chose to utilize what she had already earned and completed Kentucky's education and exam requirements.