



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
35 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0035

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

Director's Policy Statement

Unplanned School Closing – Teach-Out Option in Salon Setting #3/2015

(March 31, 2015)

On January 6, 2015, Mr. Bernard's School of Hair Fashion, Inc. located at 711 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME and Mr. Bernard's School of Hair Fashion, Inc. located at 66 Pine Street, Bangor ME closed abruptly, which caused the displacement of about ninety-seven students and their inability to finish required hours to complete their course of study in cosmetology.

Maine law provides a trainee track of study within a licensed salon (establishment) under the direct supervision of a qualified licensed practitioner. A trainee may enroll in a licensed school to obtain theory-type education and have those hours applied toward the 2,500 trainee course of study hours. However, program rules do not address credit of hours or ability of a student with accumulated course hours obtained in a structured school setting to apply those course hours toward a trainee course. The reason for not commingling hours between a more structured educational school vs. non- structured on-the-job training is clear. However, the unplanned closure of these two schools and the state's interest in assisting these students causes the Department to take steps to lessen the impact on students who have been unable to transition to another school.

Current rules of the program do not address this situation. In light of this, the Director issues this policy statement to allow a student who was attending one of Mr. Bernard's schools at the time of the schools' closure to obtain his or her remaining course hours of instruction through on- the- job experience in the practice of cosmetology as a trainee.

**Policy:** A student who was enrolled at the time of the closing of the two schools identified herein with 1,000 or more accumulated course hours may complete the balance of the required 1,500 school hours as a trainee at a rate of one training hour for every .6 of a trainee instruction hour.

An affected student will be required to submit a trainee application for purposes of registration and submitting information about the qualified supervisor who will conduct the training. Because a student enrolled in a licensed school would have had to present post-secondary education and birthdate information, there will be no further need to resubmit this information; there will be no charge for the trainee registration and no other documentation required to be submitted by the affected student other than the information about the qualified supervisor. However, upon filing for initial licensure, documentation of post-secondary education and birthdate information may be required if it is not available from the student's school records. A student who was enrolled at the time of the closing of the two schools identified herein with less than 1,000 hours accumulated course hours may request to have their accumulated cosmetology course hours applied toward completion of a full trainee course of 2,500 hours.

*Note: Final rules will be adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A of the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. The final rules may differ somewhat from this policy statement, but the Office will work with any individual who move forward prior to adoption to address any issues arising from those differences.*

Anne L. Head, Director, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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Program Administrator Contact: Geraldine L. Betts 207-624-8625 or [geraldine.l.betts@maine.gov](mailto:geraldine.l.betts@maine.gov)