

Seavers, Dennis

From: Seavers, Dennis
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:08 PM
To: barber-schools
Subject: Use of non-instructors for training

Dear schools,

At its April meeting, the board discussed the ability of schools to have non-instructors offer training. The topic, which was requested by a licensee, focused on whether it was possible to have aides, interns, or similar individuals provide training at the school, perhaps while working toward the instructor's license. The board asked the staff to research the issue.

The Barbers Act does have provisions related to instructors, including requirements to have a school manager who is an instructor, a certain ratio between students and instructors, and a certain number of instructors present. (The full requirements are discussed in the Personnel Requirements section of the school manual, which is available at www.ncbarbers.com under Forms > Forms for schools. Please note that, despite what the manual says about the student-instructor ratio, the board has also passed emergency rules that are in effect until August 1, 2020, that allow for-profit schools to have one instructor for the first 20 students.) But the Act doesn't require a barber who offers training to necessarily be a licensed instructor, as long as the school meets the requirements for instructors at the school.

This allowance means that schools with the required number of instructors can also make use of barbers who aren't instructors but who may have certain skills. Examples might be demonstration, visiting expertise, changing up the pedagogical experience for students, covering instructor absences (again, assuming the school meets the requirements for the minimum number of instructors), or compensating for instructor shortages in certain markets in the state.

I want to emphasize that the board isn't necessarily advocating training by barbers who aren't licensed instructors. In fact, during the meeting, a variety of opinions were presented about this topic from board members and licensees. Instead, this is simply an explanation that there isn't a prohibition in law for those schools that might wish to supplement their instructors with barbers who aren't licensed instructors. Naturally, it will be up to schools to determine what's in the best interest of the students and the school beyond the minimum regulatory requirements.

Please note that some schools may have accreditation requirements that require the use of license instructors. This email doesn't exempt you from requirements your school must meet that are unrelated to matters in the board's jurisdiction.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at dennis.seavers@nc.gov or (919) 814-0641.

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