

# North Carolina

48

of 102 moderate-income occupations licensed

29<sup>th</sup>

most burdensome licensing laws

21<sup>st</sup>

most broadly and onerously licensed state

North Carolina is the 21<sup>st</sup> most broadly and onerously licensed state, placing it in the second tier of states. The state requires a license for 48 of the 102 occupations, with an average barrier of \$180 in fees, 250 days lost to education or experience and one exam—the 29<sup>th</sup> most burdensome licensing laws. North Carolina's ranking is influenced by the number of occupations licensed as well as some of the more burdensome requirements.

A number of the licenses have higher-than-average barriers. For example, North Carolina requires almost two years to become a barber compared to the national average of just over a year—416 days. It takes three years to become a landscape contractor or a fire or security alarm installer, compared to national averages of one-and-a-half years or less. Aspiring pest control applicators lose two

years to experience requirements, despite 32 states not requiring experience at all.

It takes just 39 days of training to earn a license as an emergency medical technician in North Carolina, but substantially more to become a licensed manicurist (70 days), massage therapist (117), skin care specialist (140), cosmetologist (350) or barber (722). Occupations like these, where training required does not line up with public safety concerns, make possible targets for reform, as well as occupations that are more difficult to enter in North Carolina than elsewhere.

North Carolina could open more prospects for its low- to moderate-income workers by lowering or eliminating such high and unnecessary barriers to entry in licensed occupations.

Burden Rank	Occupation	Number of States that License	Fees	Education/Experience (Days)	Exams	Minimum Grade	Minimum Age
1	Preschool Teacher	49	\$85	1,825	1	0	18
2	Athletic Trainer	46	\$400	1,460	1	0	0
3	Fire Alarm Installer	34	\$165	1,095	0	0	18
3	Security Alarm Installer	34	\$165	1,095	0	0	18
5	Landscape Contractor	10	\$75	1,095	2	0	0
6	Optician	22	\$250	910	1	12	18
7	Pest Control Applicator	51	\$175	730	1	0	18
8	Veterinary Technologist	37	\$270	730	2	0	0
9	HVAC Contractor (General/Commercial)	40	\$260	730	2	0	0
10	Barber	50	\$120	722	3	0	0
11	Earth Driller	47	\$250	548	1	0	18
12	Cosmetologist	51	\$158	350	2	0	0
13	School Bus Driver	51	\$150	184	6	0	18
14	Massage Therapist	39	\$170	117	1	12	18
15	Auctioneer	33	\$614	19	2	12	18
16	Sign Language Interpreter	16	\$923	2	3	0	18
17	Emergency Medical Technician	51	\$0	39	2	12	0
18	Makeup Artist	36	\$129	140	2	0	0
19	Skin Care Specialist	50	\$119	140	2	0	0
20	Bus Driver (City/Transit)	51	\$135	0	5	0	18
21	Truck Driver	51	\$120	0	4	0	18
22	Crane Operator	18	\$165	0	3	0	18

Burden Rank	Occupation	Number of States that License	Fees	Education/Experience (Days)	Exams	Minimum Grade	Minimum Age
23	Bill Collector Agency	30	\$1,000	0	0	0	0
24	Manicurist	50	\$10	70	2	0	0
25	Locksmith	13	\$338	0	1	0	18
26	Vegetation Pesticide Handler	51	\$50	0	1	0	18
27	Security Guard	37	\$25	2	0	0	18
28	Weigher	24	\$25	0	0	0	18
29	Mobile Home Installer	39	\$265	0	1	0	0
30	Child Care Worker	33	\$0	4	0	0	16
31	Mason Contractor (General/Commercial)	29	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Iron/Steel Contractor (General/Commercial)	31	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Door Repair Contractor	35	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Pipelayer Contractor	29	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Sheet Metal Contractor (General/Commercial)	28	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Carpenter/Cabinet Maker Contractor (General/Commercial)	30	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Insulation Contractor (General/Commercial)	29	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Terrazzo Contractor (General/Commercial)	29	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Paving Equipment Operator Contractor	27	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Drywall Installation Contractor (General/Commercial)	30	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Floor Sander Contractor (General/Commercial)	29	\$135	0	1	0	0
31	Glazier Contractor (General/Commercial)	30	\$135	0	1	0	0
43	Fisher	41	\$200	0	0	0	0
44	Milk Sampler	34	\$5	0	1	0	0
45	Cement Finishing Contractor (General/Commercial)	29	\$75	0	0	0	0
45	Painting Contractor (General/Commercial)	28	\$75	0	0	0	0
47	Animal Breeder	26	\$50	0	0	0	0
48	Taxidermist	26	\$10	0	0	0	0