

Licensing Exam Information

The Licensing exam is offered quarterly in February, May, August and November. Typically the February and August dates are in Charlotte and the May and November dates are in Raleigh. You must have submitted a complete application and be otherwise approved for licensure before you are eligible to sit for the exam.

The exam session is limited to 3 hours. The exam has approximately 225 questions covering the following topics:

- Codes and Code Equipment
- Cylinder Servicing (Pin and Disc)
- Lockset Servicing
- Professional Opening Techniques
- Lockset Functions
- Key Blank Identification
- Key Duplication
- Master Keying
- Domestic Automotive Locks
- Foreign Automotive Locks
- Safe Combination Locks
- Legal and Ethical Regulations

Though the exam is geared primarily toward architectural locksmithing, some accommodation is made for those whose specialty is safes or automotive locksmithing. Separate exams for these specialties are expected to be available beginning sometime in 2007.

Preparing to Pass the NC Locksmith Licensing Exam

The NC Locksmith Licensing Exam is calibrated to ensure that persons who are practicing the locksmith trade independently have the minimal skills necessary to provide adequate service to the public. Usually this entails about 2 years as a full-time apprentice or the approximate equivalent in part-time work or study. You may speed your progress by undertaking a course of study at Associated Locksmiths of America (www.aloa.org), North Carolina Locksmith's Association (www.ncla.us), Lockmasters (www.lsittraining.com) or another trade association or institution. However, as you can see below the most effective means of preparation by far is apprenticeship.

The Board has published a study guide in order to help students prepare for the exam. This guide was created from the exam itself and so covers the material on the exam very thoroughly. However, simply reading from a book is not sufficient to prepare for the exam if you have no other exposure to the trade. The study guide can be purchased from the Licensing Board office for \$25. Below are the approximate passing rates according to how students reported that they prepared for the exam:

Correspondence course only: 25%

Correspondence course + extensive use of study guide: 50%

In excess of 2 years experience/apprenticeship: 90%