

# COSMETOLOGIST



## JOB DESCRIPTION

Cosmetologists specialize in making people look and feel good. They provide a range of facial and body treatments—such as manicures, pedicures, hair removal, eyebrow shaping, and specialized therapies—to improve the appearance and well-being of clients. A cosmetologist may also offer advice on recommended treatments, the use of cosmetics and skin products, and makeup application techniques.



### SALARY

Newly qualified cosmetologist ★★★★★  
Salon manager ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Growing demand for speciality beauty treatments • Opportunities in a wide range of specializations and settings, from health salons to home visits • Self-employment common

## CAREER PATHS

Cosmetologists start their careers by mastering the basics of a range of treatments, such as waxing, massage, facials, and skin care. Adding to your skills by taking courses in specialized techniques—such as piercings or advanced massage—will increase your career prospects and appeal to employers.

**TRAINEE** You can combine work experience in a salon or spa with on-the-job beauty cosmetology training by taking a paid trainee position.

**COLLEGE GRADUATE** You can become a cosmetologist by completing a vocational college training course, which combines lectures and classes with practical experience. Full-time or part-time courses are available.



### COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIST

Performs a range of specialized health therapies—such as body massage, aromatherapy, reflexology, or hydrotherapy—that complement traditional forms of medical care.



**COSMETOLOGIST** As a cosmetologist, you will continue to learn new techniques and utilize new products throughout your career. You may specialize in a type of treatment, or move into salon management or cosmetics sales.



## SKILLS GUIDE



Good communication skills to listen to customer needs and explain treatments clearly.



Creativity and artistic ability to keep up to date with new techniques and styles.



Strong customer service skills for interacting with people and making them feel comfortable.



Excellent manual dexterity to apply beauty treatments, such as skin-care products and makeup.



Physical stamina for standing for long periods of time while giving customers their treatments.



Precision and attention to detail for applying makeup and other treatments neatly and accurately.



**NAIL TECHNICIAN** Carries out manicures and pedicures and applies lotions, varnishes, and artificial nails. Nail technicians may also offer other treatments, such as foot massage.



**HAIR REMOVAL SPECIALIST** Uses a variety of techniques, such as electrolysis, waxing, threading, or laser treatment, to remove unwanted hair from clients.



**COSMETICS CONSULTANT** Visits salons, beauticians, and stores to demonstrate and sell new beauty products and treatments.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **MAKEUP ARTIST** *see pp. 32–33*
- ▶ **HAIRDRESSER** Cuts, colors, shapes, and styles hair, and gives advice on suitable and attractive styles for individual clients. Hairdressers need good people skills in order to build long-term relationships with clients, as well as an awareness of style trends and a willingness to learn new methods of hairstyling.
- ▶ **IMAGE CONSULTANT** Offers advice to individual clients on their public image, including makeup styles, clothing and dress, and personal presentation. Image consultants also advise companies and corporations on a vast range of topics—such as branding, business etiquette, and understanding corporate culture.

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Beauty treatments and techniques • Health and fitness • Customer service • Art • Design • English • Fashion



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** Cosmetologists can train on the job, but a vocational qualification is required by most employers.



**LIFESTYLE** Most cosmetologists work regular hours, but working during weekends or evenings may occasionally be required.



**LOCATION** This job can be done in a beauty salon, hotel, health spa, or on a cruise ship. Some cosmetologists visit clients in their own homes.



**THE REALITIES** The work involves close physical contact with clients, which may be uncomfortable. Strong competition means that salaries are low.