Potential Careers

Northern Michigan University's Cosmetology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations
- Beautician
- Color Specialist
- Cosmetologist
- Education Specialist
- Esthetician
- Hair Stylist
- Makeup Artist
- Manufacturer's Representative
- Nail Technician
- Permanent Wave Specialist
- Receptionist
- Retail Specialist
- Salon Manager/Owner
- Skin Care Specialist

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Technology & Occupational Sciences Department
101 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2190
www.nmu.edu/tos

For job search, resume and career information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For information about NMU student organizations associated with this major contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Hair-Razorz! Student Organization
906-227-1518

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For career information with national organizations:
www.ncacares.org National Cosmetology Association
www.cosmetologistsofamerica.com Cosmetologists of America

Current as of Fall 2014
Provided by:
The Academic & Career Advisement Center
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Skills and Competencies

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Cosmetology

Cosmetologists provide beauty services such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair. They may advise clients on how to care for their hair and what hairstyle suits them best. Additionally, cosmetologists may be trained to give manicures, pedicures, and scalp and facial treatments; provide makeup analysis; and clean and style wigs and hairpieces.

NMU’s diploma program educates students in the following areas: sterilization and sanitation, shampoos and rinses, scalp treatments, hair shaping and styling, thermal press and curl, permanent waving, hair coloring, manicures and pedicures, facials and applying makeup, anatomy, salon management, and related diseases. Students also learn to understand, interpret, and apply the laws of the Michigan State Board of Cosmetology.

In addition to their work with clients, cosmetologists are expected to maintain clean work areas and sanitize all work implements. They may make appointments and keep records of hair color and permanent wave formulas used by their regular clients. A growing number actively sell hair care products and other cosmetic supplies.

Cosmetologists who operate their own salons will also have managerial duties that include hiring, supervising, and terminating workers as well as keeping business and inventory records, ordering supplies, and advertising.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, specific major requirements along with liberal studies graduation requirements.

Core
COS 111 Fundamentals of Cosmetology (4 cr.)
COS 112 Fundamentals of Cosmetology II (4 cr.)
COS 113 Fundamental Application of Physical Services (8 cr.)
COS 121 Intermediate Cosmetology I (4 cr.)
COS 122 Intermediate Cosmetology II (4 cr.)
COS 123 Intermediate Application of Physical Services (8 cr.)
COS 131 Advanced Cosmetology I (4 cr.)
COS 132 Advanced Cosmetology II (4 cr.)
COS 133 Advanced Application of Physical Services (8 cr.)
COS 141 Master Level of Cosmetology
COS 142 Master Level of Cosmetology II
COS 143 Master Level Application of Physical Services (8 cr.)

Job Outlook

Cosmetology as a field is expected to grow at a 14% increase or faster than average for the next decade. The largest increase will be in pedicurists and manicurists, expanding some 28%. Beginning workers in this field can expect to be paid hourly at a clip of $10-$12, and expect to increase with time. Location and clientele will be variables in terms of overall earnings.

You should begin the résumé-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your résumé and look for job openings related to your field. Becoming involved in an industry-related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Degree Information

Cosmetology is a certificate program that requires 65 credits to complete and should take four semesters.

Cosmetology is a broad field with many disciplines. Cosmetologists are everywhere and work in such settings as hair salons, nail parlors, and department stores, but also find employment in nursing homes, the publishing industry, and educational facilities.

Students entering the Cosmetology certificate program are required to complete 1500 clock hours and pass the Michigan State Licensing Board Examination in order to become a licensed Cosmetologist.