
Barbers and Hairdressers

Barbers, Hairdressers, Cosmetologists, Skincare specialists, Manicurists and other beauty industry occupations are some of the most commonly licensed. Barbers and Hairdressers cut and style hair, but Barbers also work on beards and shaving. Manicurists/Pedicurists work on nails. Aestheticians work on skin for cosmetic (not medical) reasons.

Trends

Many states have a hair braiding license or other reduced scope of practice license. Some states also have an apprenticeship pathway.

Common Qualifications

Most states require a specific training program and nationally recognized certification as part of their licensure requirements. Experience, credit hours, and continuing education are often clearly defined.

Examples of License Titles

These are universally licensed occupations. In the national occupational license database, there are 470 licenses that are associated with hair and skincare, representing 53 states and territories. Most states have a specific license for Barbers (48), Cosmetology (49), and Manicurists (45). Electrologists (29) and Aestheticians (41) are often separately licensed. Often Barber or Cosmetology Instructors require a specific license to teach, with 34 states requiring some kind of specific instructor license in the industry. Some states offer an apprenticeship for some occupation in the field (12) and some offer an alternative license for Natural Hair or Braiding (10).

Most common license titles:

Barber
Cosmetologist
Electrologist
Manicurist

Outlier license title examples:

Facialist
Eyelash Technician
Booth Renter

Examples of License Boards

There is usually a specific board and sometimes Cosmetology is separate from Barbering.

Most common board titles:

State Board of Barbers &
Hairdressers
Arkansas State Board of Barber
Examiners

Outlier board title examples:

Board of Electrologists
State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners

ONET codes

Because most states issue licenses for each licensed specialist, generally cosmetology and barbering licenses can be coded just to their specific occupational code. Instructors should also be coded to 25-1194.00 Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary. Makeup Artists and Shampooers are rarely separately licensed.

- 39-5011.00 Barbers**
- 39-5012.00 Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists**
- 39-5091.00 Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance**
- 39-5092.00 Manicurists and Pedicurists**
- 39-5093.00 Shampooers**
- 39-5094.00 Skincare Specialists**

Related Occupations

Tattoo artists may overlap somewhat. Because many stylists can operate in another business as a booth or chair renter, sometimes there are business licenses that overlap the industry.

Associated Certifications

- **Certified Laser Professional**
- **Certified Laser Hair Removal Specialist**
- **Certified Aesthetic Laser Operator**
- **Certified Laser Hair Removal Supervisor**