

Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists

SOC: 39-5010 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$35,420 Median Salary	651,200 Employment	+5.0% Growth Rate
----------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 32.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.6/10	Investigative	4.6/10
Artistic	6.6/10	Social	8.8/10
Enterprising	5.6/10	Conventional	5.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Creativity, Customer-service skills, Listening skills, Physical stamina, Tidiness, Time-management skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists provide **personal grooming, hairstyling, and beauty services to clients**. They cut, color, and style hair, perform skincare and nail treatments, and advise clients on appearance and hygiene. Their work is critical in the beauty, wellness, and personal care industries.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy creativity, hands-on work, and interacting directly with clients.

What Do Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists Do?

These professionals provide grooming, beauty, and wellness services, helping clients achieve their desired appearance and maintain personal care.

Common responsibilities include:

- Cutting, trimming, and styling hair according to client preferences
- Applying hair color, highlights, and chemical treatments
- Providing skincare, facials, and makeup services
- Performing manicures, pedicures, and nail care
- Advising clients on hair and skin care routines
- Maintaining clean and sanitary workstations and tools
- Scheduling appointments and managing client records

Key Areas of Beauty and Personal Care

Professionals may focus on specific services, techniques, or client types:

- Hair Cutting and Styling: Designing and maintaining hairstyles for clients
- Hair Coloring and Chemical Treatments: Applying dyes, perms, or straightening treatments
- Skincare and Makeup: Providing facials, makeup application, and skin treatments
- Nail Care and Manicures/Pedicures: Maintaining nails and providing cosmetic enhancements
- Client Consultation and Education: Recommending products and grooming techniques

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine technical, artistic, and interpersonal skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal training and licensing:

- Postsecondary Training or Cosmetology School: Courses in hair, skincare, makeup, and nail care
- Apprenticeship or On-the-Job Training: Gaining hands-on experience under supervision
- State Licensure: Required to practice as a barber, hairstylist, or cosmetologist
- Continuing Education: Staying current with trends, techniques, and safety regulations
- Specialty Certifications (optional): Advanced skills in makeup, hair extensions, or skin treatments

Where Do Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists Work?

They are employed in businesses that provide grooming and beauty services:

- Barbershops and Hair Salons
- Spas and Wellness Centers
- Beauty and Cosmetic Studios
- Hotels, Resorts, and Cruise Lines

- Private or Freelance Practice

Work environments include salons, spas, studios, and client homes.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires technical skill, creativity, and strong interpersonal abilities. Professionals must keep up with trends, ensure client satisfaction, and maintain sanitary and safe practices.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy creative, hands-on work with clients
- Are detail-oriented and precise
- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Can work in fast-paced environments
- Want a career promoting beauty, wellness, and personal care

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in cosmetology, beauty, and personal care
- Gain experience through volunteer work or internships in salons or spas
- Develop skills in hair, skincare, makeup, and nail care
- Explore accredited cosmetology or barber programs
- Stay updated on trends, techniques, and industry standards

Barbers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists enhance clients' appearance and well-being through professional grooming, beauty services, and personal care.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/barbers-hairstylists-and-cosmetologists.htm>