

Texas Cosmetology Operator Evidence Guide



NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Current Texas license steps

Source checked August 10, 2026: Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), Apply for a Cosmetology Operator License.

1. Complete a **1,000-hour Cosmetology Operator course at a TDLR-licensed school**.
2. After the school reports **900 hours**, the student may become eligible for the **written exam**.
3. Complete all **1,000 hours** and pass the written exam.
4. Take and pass the **practical exam**.
5. Apply for the license. The current nonrefundable application fee is **\$50**, and an applicant must be at least **17**.

A Texas Cosmetology Operator license is valid for **two years**. Current renewal requirements include continuing education. Rules and fees can change, so future applicants must check TDLR again.

Route A: Irving ISD high-school program

The current Irving ISD High School CTE page lists **Cosmetology** at:

- Cardwell Career Preparatory Center
- Irving High School
- MacArthur High School
- Nimitz High School

The 2026 *Find Your Future* workbook describes hands-on salon experience and a Cosmetology Operator License connection. Treat specific salon dates, hours earned, transportation, admission steps, and credential timing as questions for the current coursebook, counselor, or CTE office.

What this route may change: when training begins, the school-day schedule, transportation, and family cost.

What it does not change: TDLR's state license requirements.

Route B: Licensed postsecondary school

After high school, a student may enroll in a TDLR-licensed cosmetology school and complete the same 1,000-hour operator course and state exam steps.

Before enrolling, compare:

- total tuition and supply fees;
- full-time or part-time schedule;
- completion time;
- student support and exam preparation;
- graduation and exam outcomes;

- refund and transfer policies; and
- whether the school and curriculum are currently approved by TDLR.

Other licenses have different scopes and hours

Do not treat every beauty-industry license as the same route.

TEXAS LICENSE TYPE	REQUIRED CURRICULUM HOURS SHOWN BY TDLR
Cosmetology Operator	1,000
Esthetician	750
Manicurist	600
Eyelash Extension Specialist	320

The shorter number does not mean the same job. Each license covers a different scope of practice. Only a properly licensed person may offer regulated services for pay.

Work and pay context

Source checked August 10, 2026: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists.

- May 2024 U.S. median for hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists: **\$16.95 per hour**.
- Projected employment growth for that occupation: **6% from 2024 to 2034**.
- Work often includes evenings or weekends. Tips are included in the BLS wage data.
- Common duties include discussing client needs, providing hair services, receiving payments, keeping records, and cleaning and disinfecting tools and work areas.

These are national figures, not DFW starting pay and not a guarantee. Xello may be used for localized salary exploration when the geography, date, and measure remain visible.

Source links

- TDLR operator requirements: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/barbering-and-cosmetology/individuals/apply-cosmetologist.htm>
- TDLR school curriculum hours: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/barbering-and-cosmetology/schools/forms.htm>
- Irving ISD High School CTE: <https://www.irvingisd.net/departments-services/career-and-technical-education-cte/high-school-cte>
- BLS occupation profile: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/barbers-hairstylists-and-cosmetologists.htm>