



Personal Care Services is a program of study within the **Human Services Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Human Services cluster prepares individuals for employment in career pathways related to families and human needs.

There are five programs of study in this cluster:

- Consumer Services
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Family and Community Services
- Personal Care Services

Employment Outlook

Overall employment of **Cosmetologists** and other personal appearance workers is projected to grow about as fast as average through 2016, because of an increasing population, rising incomes, and growing demand for personal appearance services. A number of factors, including the size and location of the salon, clients' tipping habits, and competition, determine the total income of cosmetologists and other personal appearance workers. A cosmetologist's initiative and ability to attract and hold regular clients also are key factors in determining earnings. Entry-level salaries are usually low; however, for those who stay in the profession, earnings can be considerably higher. The cosmetology profession offers salaries that range from \$15,530 to \$42,460 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009).

Using this brochure

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Personal Care Services Program of Study**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O*NET code**. The O*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations like SkillsUSA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that may be available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for personal care professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.

