

Estheticians, Cosmetologists & Make-up Artists

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as an Esthetician/ Cosmetologist/ Make-up Artist [NOC 2021: 63211 / NOC 2016: 6562]

Job Descriptions

Estheticians, cosmetologists and make-up artists are beauty professionals who work on hair, skin, and nails to keep them healthy and attractive. There are a variety of jobs within this beauty sector.

Estheticians

- Estheticians care for skin to maintain its health and appearance. They treat people from head to toe—from facials to pedicures using specialized products and techniques.

Cosmeticians

- teach customers how to use makeup and other beauty products
- apply makeup to customers
- may specialize in applying makeup to models or other individuals for special occasions

Electrologists

- remove unwanted hair permanently from client's face or body using specialized electrical hair removal equipment, laser and other equipment

Manicurists and pedicurists:

- clean, shape and polish fingernails and toenails and provide related treatments

Tattoo artists:

- apply permanent designs to customer's skin, using electric needles and chemical dyes
- may also apply temporary designs to customer's skin

Hair replacement technicians (non-medical):

- prepare and apply custom-made hair pieces to customer's scalp
- weave customer's hair to hair pieces
- give scalp treatments

Source:

- **WorkBC, Career Profile for Estheticians, Cosmetologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

Industry Overview

This is an entrepreneurial business. You secure your job by building your clientele. Happy clients will follow you if you change salons, and having an established client list makes you more valuable to employers.

Estheticians trained in skin care, body treatments, massage, and nail art are more in demand than people trained only in manicures and pedicures.

As job openings and job seekers are projected to be at relatively similar levels over the 2019-2028 period, the balance between labour supply and demand seen in recent years is expected to continue over the projection period.

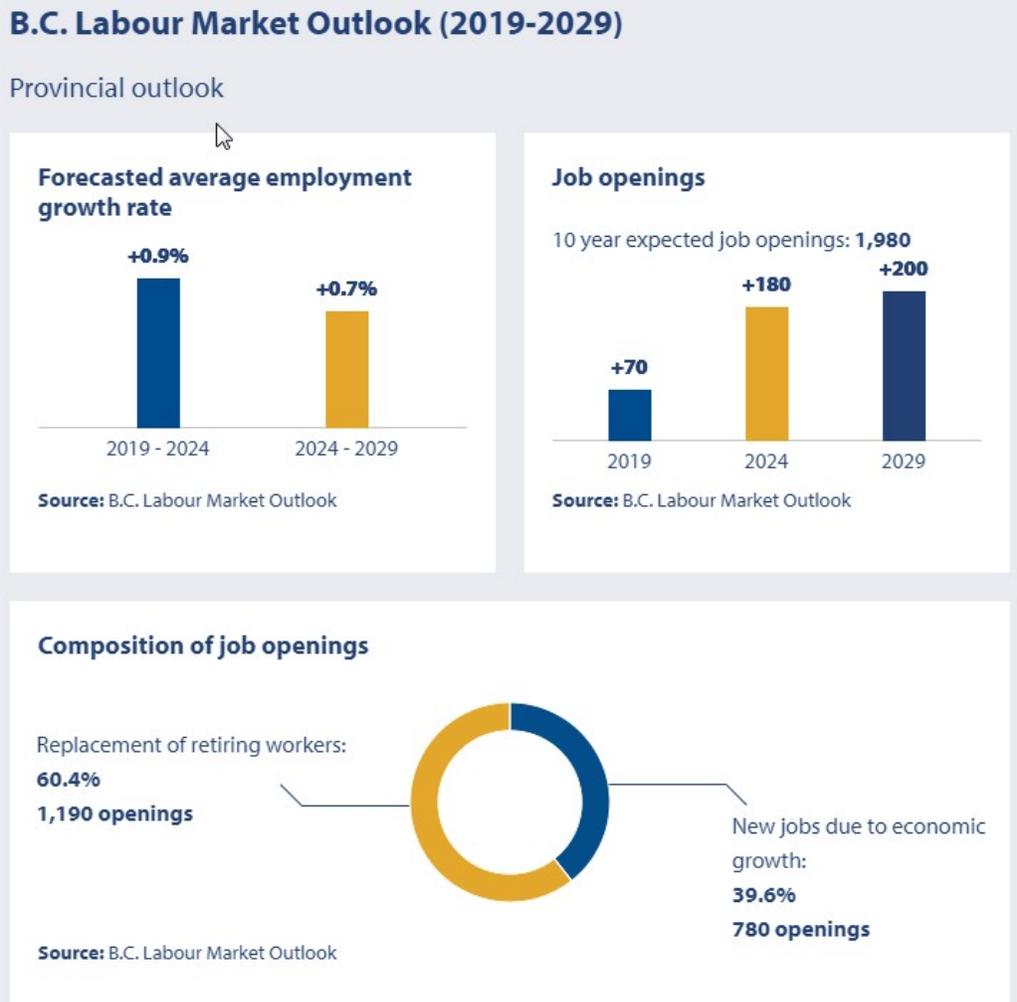
Sources:

- Career Cruising (profiles of Esthetician and Cosmetologist)
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

- Source: Job Bank Canada, Job Prospects for Esthetician
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/outlook-occupation/14034/ca>

Job Outlook in BC

Estheticians, Cosmetologists and Makeup Artists



WorkBC, Career Profile for Estheticians, Cosmetologists <https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>

WorkBC provides employment outlook within BC regions for 2019-2029, including these two regions:

Mainland / Southwest		Vancouver Island / Coast	
Employment in 2019:	6,070	Employment in 2019:	1,630
Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	0.5%	Average annual employment growth(%) 2019-2029:	1.8%
Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	1,060	Expected number of job openings 2019-2029:	540

You can learn more about working as an esthetician, cosmetologist and make-up artist in BC from:

- **WorkBC, Career Profile for Estheticians, Cosmetologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **Career Cruising** (profiles of Esthetician and Cosmetologist)
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Types of Employers

Estheticians and cosmetologists work in a variety of settings:

- beauty salons and spas
- electrolysis studios
- cosmetic departments of retail stores such as pharmacies and department stores
- beauty salons/spas in hotels, resorts and on cruise ships
- beauty product companies
- sales representatives for beauty product companies

Make-up artists work for:

- television and film production companies
- theatre and dance companies
- modelling agencies
- photographers
- retail outlets

- bridal parties and other special events

You may also be self-employed.

Salary

In BC, the average median salary is \$31,284. Your salary depends on:

- the size and reputation of the salon or spa
- the size of your established clientele
- the type of work being done
- the number of hours you work
- if you are working on a commission compensation basis

Tips received from your clients may be a significant part of your earnings.

If you run your own business, you can earn a higher salary.

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for estheticians and other related occupations in BC regions:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	14.60	15.00	26.00
Cariboo Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kootenay Region	14.60	15.00	26.00
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	14.60	15.00	26.00
Nechako Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Coast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northeast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thompson–Okanagan Region	14.60	14.88	23.48
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	14.60	15.00	26.00
Canada	12.00	15.00	24.00

Chart from: Job Bank Canada <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/explorecareers.do>

Sources:

- WorkBC, Career Profile for Estheticians, Cosmetologists
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- Career Cruising (profiles of Esthetician and Cosmetologist)
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

Working Hours

You may be expected to work a variety of hours, including daytime, evenings and weekends. Part-time work is very common, especially at the beginning of your career. Some people also work 7 to 8 hours a day, and a minimum of 35 to 40 hours a week.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Friendly and outgoing; enjoy working with people
- Excellent communication skills
- Tactful and sensitive
- Willing to continually upgrade knowledge and skills
- A sense of style
- Work well with your hands
- Patient and sensitive
- Ability to follow safety and infection control procedures

Education and Experience

To work in BC you require:

- completion of a college or beauty school program for cosmeticians, estheticians, electrologists, manicurists and pedicurists

OR

- on-the-job training
- certification with the BeautyCouncil is not mandatory but may increase your employment opportunities

Qualifications

This occupation is not regulated in British Columbia.

Certification is not mandatory to work as an esthetician, cosmetologist or make-up artist in BC. However, you may choose to become a *Certified Cosmetology Professional (CCP)* through The BeautyCouncil (<https://beautycouncil.ca/>). The BeautyCouncil is the voluntary professional trade association in BC. Passing the BeautyCouncil Certificate of Qualification exam earns you the internationally recognized Certified Cosmetology Professional (CCP) designation.

To become a certified professional, you will need to complete an esthetics program at a cosmetology school. To choose what school is right for you, you must do your research and consider the course curriculum, the location of the school and financial commitment of the esthetics program.

The ***Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB)*** is the government authorized regulatory body for private training in British Columbia. You can search for ***registered cosmetology*** schools here:

- Private Training Program Directory – Province of British Columbia
<https://www.privatetraininginstitutions.gov.bc.ca/students/pti-directory>
[search for 'esthetics' in keyword box]
Check that under the "Program" tab it shows "***Status: Approved***"

Certification Exam: Once you have completed your training you may apply to write the BeautyCouncil examination in Hairdressing, Esthetics or Nail Technology. These cover both theory and practical exams.

After successfully passing the examination, you receive a BeautyCouncil Certificate of Qualification. The *Certificate of Qualification* is required to obtain the *Certified Cosmetology Professional (CCP)* designation.

For more information see:

- **Exams and Certification**

<https://beautycouncil.ca/certifications/>

https://beautycouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Esthetics_exam_requirements-1.pdf

Internationally trained Estheticians & cosmetologists

You can register to challenge the BeautyCouncil Certificate of Qualification in Exam, provided you have completed the required school hours or work experience hours.

If you were trained outside of BC, you must provide:

- School diploma (in English) with number of hours completed (diploma must list hours of study)
- Letter from school (in English) on school letterhead, with the signature of the administrator or trainer detailing the number of hours completed.

<https://beautycouncil.ca/certifications/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional association publications.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun & the Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily and the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**

http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search

Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards

- **Spas in Canada**

<https://www.spasincanada.ca/job-listings/>

- **Cosmetics Alliance Canada**
<https://www.cosmeticsalliance.ca/job-board/>
- **Working.com**
<http://working.com>
Can search by job title (e.g. esthetician) and search by city
- **Neuvoo.ca**
<http://neuvoo.ca>
- **BC JobConnect**
<https://www.bcjobconnect.ca> **must have permanent resident number**
newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

Professional Associations' Career Resources

Cosmetics Alliance Canada

<https://www.cosmeticsalliance.ca/job-board/>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a wide range of different job titles that are relevant.

- Cosmetician / Esthetician
- Electrologist
- Manicurist/Pedicurist
- Beautician / Beauty care specialist
- Beauty treatment operator
- Hair replacement technician
- Scalp treatment specialist
- Consultant, skin care
- Body piercer

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of potential employers. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Spas in Canada**
<https://www.spasincanada.ca/> [spas and salons in Canada]
- **Spa Inc.**
<https://www.spainc.ca/spa-directory/>
- **Household & Personal Products Industry**
https://www.happi.com/directory/C_CA/
- **Reference Canada**
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "cosmetologists" or "estheticians" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter. These should identify the position you are applying for and summarize your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]
- **Networking for Employment**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Networking for Employment]
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Learn More about Working in BC and Canada]

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations for estheticians, cosmetologists, make-up artists can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are required for membership.

- **BeautyCouncil**
<https://beautycouncil.ca>
- **Canadian Cosmetics Careers Association**
<http://www.cosmetics.ca/>
- **Cosmetics Alliance Canada**
<https://www.cosmeticsalliance.ca/>

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. An example at the Central Library:

- **Cosmetics** / *Claro Publications*
Available in print at the Central Library, 668.505 C834
<http://cosmeticsmag.com/>
<http://cosmeticsmag.com/the-magazine>
- **Skin Inc** magazine
<https://www.skininc.com/>
Skin Inc. magazine is the leading industry publication for day spa, medical spa and wellness professionals
- **Spa Inc.**
<https://www.spainc.ca/>
- **Spas in Canada**
<https://www.spasincanada.ca/>

**Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library,
Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.**

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>