

# Career Opportunities

## Cosmetology: A Bright Spot In Gloomy Employment Landscape

(NAPSA)—Searching for a successful and fulfilling profession can be hard work, even without the added anxiety of a contracting job market.

But the good news is that there are still some industries that continue to flourish. Cosmetology is one field with cause for optimism.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates the profession will grow by 14 percent from 2006 to 2016, a faster rate of growth than the average for all other occupations studied.

### Beauty School Is The Best Way

This growth rate is one reason that the industry now needs more new professionals than it can supply, making cosmetology a career worth exploring.

Think you'd like to be a cosmetologist? The best way to pursue such a career, whether as a hairstylist, colorist, a esthetician, nail technician or makeup artist, is to go to beauty school.

According to Empire Education Group, the nation's largest chain of cosmetology schools under single ownership, many aspiring cosmetologists are finding that the current job market has made this the perfect time to go back to school.

"When the economy goes down, school enrollment often goes up, and we have already seen a bump," says Franklin K. Schoeneman, CEO and chairman of Empire Education Group. "Many people who always dreamed of pursuing a career in cosmetology are finding that this is the right time to take that first step. We have many young students, and there has also been a noteworthy increase in students who are pursuing a second career."

### Many Are Self-Employed

One appealing fact is that 46 percent of those working in the



**Job opportunities in the cosmetology profession are a lot prettier than other professions.**

industry are self-employed, according to U.S. Department of Labor estimates. Many stylists enjoy flexible work schedules, an increasingly common demand from those looking for a work-family balance. Whether it's opening a salon, becoming a spa director at a resort or doing makeup for runways, photo shoots or local brides, there are many paths to choose within the field of cosmetology, none of which involve sitting behind a desk.

Within two months of graduating from Empire Beauty School in Manhattan, Laura Umpierrez has secured an assistant position at a top hair salon. She has worked at New York's Fashion Week, the U.S. Open and on countless celebrities. "Doing what I love for a living, in such an exciting industry, has been a dream come true," says Umpierrez.

To learn about pursuing a career in cosmetology, visit [www.empire.edu](http://www.empire.edu).