



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Summary



Quick Facts: Skincare Specialists

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2021 Median Pay | \$37,300 per year \$17.93 per hour |
| Typical Entry-Level Education | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Work Experience in a Related Occupation | None |
| On-the-job Training | None |
| Number of Jobs, 2021 | 80,500 |
| Job Outlook, 2021-31 | 17% (Much faster than average) |
| Employment Change, 2021-31 | 13,400 |

[What Skincare Specialists Do](#)

Skincare specialists provide cleansing and other face and body treatments to enhance a person's appearance.

[Work Environment](#)

Skincare specialists usually work in salons and beauty and health spas, and some are self-employed. Part-time work is common, and work schedules may vary and include evenings and weekends.

[How to Become a Skincare Specialist](#)

Skincare specialists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or esthetician program and then pass a state exam for licensure.

[Pay](#)

The median hourly wage for skincare specialists was \$17.93 in May 2021.

[Job Outlook](#)

Employment of skincare specialists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 13,500 openings for skincare specialists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

[State & Area Data](#)

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for skincare specialists.

[Similar Occupations](#)

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of skincare specialists with similar occupations.

[More Information, Including Links to O*NET](#)

Learn more about skincare specialists by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

What They Do ->

What They Do

What Skincare Specialists Do

Skincare specialists, also known as *estheticians*, provide cleansing and other face and body treatments to enhance a person's appearance.

Duties

Skincare specialists typically do the following:

- Disinfect equipment and clean work areas before and after procedures
- Evaluate clients' skin condition and appearance
- Discuss available treatments and determine which products will improve clients' skin quality
- Remove unwanted hair, using wax, lasers, or other approved treatments
- Clean the skin before applying makeup
- Recommend skincare products, such as cleansers, creams, or lotions
- Teach and advise clients on how to apply makeup and how to care for their skin
- Refer clients to another skincare specialist, such as a dermatologist, for serious skin problems

Skincare specialists give facials, full-body treatments, and head and neck massages to improve the health and appearance of the skin. Some provide other skincare treatments to remove dead or dry skin, such as masks, peels, and scrubs. They also may provide eyelash services, makeup application, and hair removal.

In addition, these specialists create daily skincare routines for clients based on skin analysis and help them understand which products will work best for them.

Those who operate their own salons have managerial duties that include hiring, firing, and supervising workers, as well as keeping business and inventory records, ordering supplies, and arranging for advertising.



Skincare specialists remove unwanted hair using wax or laser treatment.

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Work Environment

Work Environment

Skincare specialists held about 80,500 jobs in 2021. The largest employers of skincare specialists were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Personal care services | 43% |
| Self-employed workers | 35 |
| Offices of physicians | 7 |
| Health and personal care stores | 7 |
| Traveler accommodation | 2 |

Skincare specialists usually work in salons and beauty and health spas. Some work in medical offices. Skincare specialists may have to stand for extended periods of time.

Because skincare specialists must evaluate the condition of the skin, good lighting and clean surroundings are important. Protective clothing and good ventilation also may be necessary, because skincare specialists often use chemicals on the face and body.



Skincare specialists usually work in salons or spas.

Work Schedules

Part-time work is common for skincare specialists. Work schedules may vary and include evenings and weekends.

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How to Become One

How to Become a Skincare Specialist

Skincare specialists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or esthetician program and then pass a state exam for licensure.

Education

To enter the occupation, skincare specialists typically must complete a state-approved cosmetology or esthetician program. Although some high schools may offer vocational training, most people receive their training from a postsecondary vocational school. The [Associated Skin Care Professionals](#) organization offers a State Regulation Guide, downloadable as a PDF, on its [Requirements by State](#) page.

Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations

After completing an approved cosmetology or esthetician program, skincare specialists take a written and practical exam to get a state license. Licensing requirements vary by state, so those interested should contact their state board.

The [National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology](#) and [American Association of Cosmetology Schools](#) provide contact information for state licensing boards. Resources about exam and licensing requirements include sample exam questions.

Many states offer continuing education seminars and programs designed to keep skincare specialists current on new techniques and products. Post-licensing training is also available through manufacturers, associations, and at trade shows.

State reciprocity agreements may allow licensed skincare specialists to get a license in another state without needing additional formal training or state board testing. Contact your state licensing agency for details.



Skincare specialists must pass a state-approved cosmetology program before getting licensed.

Important Qualities

Business skills. Skincare specialists who run their own salon must understand business principles, such as accounting, to manage a salon efficiently and profitably.

Customer-service skills. Skincare specialists should be friendly and courteous to their clients to encourage repeat business.

Initiative. Self-employed skincare specialists generate their own business opportunities and must be proactive in finding new clients.

Physical stamina. Skincare specialists spend most of their day standing.

Tidiness. Workers must keep their work area clean and sanitary for the health and safety of their clients. They also must keep a neat personal appearance to increase the likelihood that clients will return.

Time-management skills. Skincare specialists need to manage their time efficiently for scheduling appointments and providing services.

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Pay

Pay

The median hourly wage for skincare specialists was \$17.93 in May 2021. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$11.10, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$31.58.

In May 2021, the median hourly wages for skincare specialists in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Offices of physicians | \$18.17 |
| Personal care services | 17.93 |
| Health and personal care stores | 15.21 |
| Traveler accommodation | 14.34 |

Part-time work is common for skincare specialists. Work schedules may vary and include evenings and weekends.

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Job Outlook

Job Outlook

Employment of skincare specialists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About 13,500 openings for skincare specialists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

Employment

The projected increase in employment reflects demand for services being offered, such as mini-sessions (quick facials at a lower cost) and mobile facials (making house calls) directly from skincare specialists rather than hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists. Employment growth also should result from the desire among many women and a growing number of men who seek out skincare services to reduce the effects of aging, to look good on social media platforms, and to lead a healthier lifestyle through better grooming.

Employment projections data for skincare specialists, 2021-31

Skincare specialists

SOC Code:
39-5094

Employment, 2021:
80,500

Projected Employment, 2031:
93,900

Change, 2021-31 (Percent):
17

Change, 2021-31 (Numeric):

Skincare Specialists

Median hourly wages, May 2021



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

[Job Outlook ->](#)

Skincare Specialists

Percent change in employment, projected 2021-31



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

13,400

Employment By Industry:[Get data](#)

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

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State & Area Data

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State & Area Data

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#) (OEWS) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The link(s) below go to OEWS data maps for employment and wages by state and area.

- [Skincare specialists](#)

Projections Central

Occupational employment projections are developed for all states by Labor Market Information (LMI) or individual state Employment Projections offices. All state projections data are available at www.projectionscentral.com. Information on this site allows projected employment growth for an occupation to be compared among states or to be compared within one state. In addition, states may produce projections for areas; there are links to each state's websites where these data may be retrieved.

CareerOneStop

CareerOneStop includes hundreds of [occupational profiles](#) with data available by state and metro area. There are links in the left-hand side menu to compare occupational employment by state and occupational wages by local area or metro area. There is also a [salary info tool](#) to search for wages by zip code.

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Similar Occupations

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Similar Occupations

This table shows a list of occupations with job duties that are similar to those of skincare specialists.

[Barbers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists](#)

Job Duties:

Barbers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists provide haircutting, hairstyling, and other services related to personal appearance.

Entry-Level Education:

Postsecondary nondegree
award

2021 Median Pay:

\$29,680

[Manicurists and Pedicurists](#)

Job Duties:

Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails.

Entry-Level Education:

Postsecondary nondegree
award

2021 Median Pay:

\$29,210

[Massage Therapists](#)

Job Duties:

Massage therapists treat clients by using touch to manipulate the muscles and other soft tissues of the body.

Entry-Level Education:

Postsecondary nondegree
award

2021 Median Pay:

\$46,910

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More Info

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Contacts for More Information

For information about skincare specialists and a state regulation guide, visit

[Associated Skin Care Professionals](#) (ASCP)

For information about education and cosmetology schools, visit

[Beauty Schools Directory](#)

For information about the spa industry, visit

[International Spa Association](#) (ISPA)

For information about state licensing, practice exams, and other resources, visit

[American Association of Cosmetology Schools](#) (AACS)

[National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology](#) (NIC)

[Professional Beauty Association](#) (PBA)

O*NET

[Skincare Specialists](#)

[← Similar Occupations](#)

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Skincare Specialists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/skincare-specialists.htm> (visited September 14, 2022).

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U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections PSB Suite 2135 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE Washington, DC 20212-0001

Telephone:1-202-691-5700_ www.bls.gov/ooh [Contact OOH](#)