Kentucky Career Center Vocational Rehabilitation

CDPVTC Training Area Nail Technician

The Nail Technician training program is designed to prepare students to gain entry-level work with businesses that employ manicurists and pedicurists.

Expectations & Requirements

While on the job, you will be expected to display the following traits:

- Discuss nail treatments and services
- Remove clients' nail polish
- Clean, file, buff, and polish nails
- Soften calluses and remove rough skin
- Massage and moisturize hands (for a manicure) and feet (for a pedicure)
- Apply or remove nail enhancements and nail art
- Advise clients about nail and skin care for hands and feet
- Clean and disinfect work area and tools
- Recognize disorders and diseases of the nails and skin



Learning Objectives

- Provide excellent customer service
- Ensure that each customer is met with a smile, friendly greeting, and a positive experience
- Good listening and interpersonal skills to meet customer needs
- Clean, shape, and polish fingernails and toenails, using files and nail polish
- Apply artificial nails
- Remain focused on duties and have good finger, wrist and arm strength & dexterity since many tools are sharp
- Manage inventory and supplies, (nail polishes, removers, moisturizers, sanitizing supplies)
- Clean, maintain, and sanitize equipment
- Follow infection control to protect customer safety and wear protective clothing
- Perform manicures & pedicures
- Schedule client appointments

Minimum Requirements

For the Nail Technician training program, students must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Students must have a minimum academic grade level of 6th grade in reading as well as basic math skills. Students should also be able to walk, stand, stoop, squat, bend, and sit for moderate to prolonged periods of time. In addition, students should be able to tolerate allergens, noise, and chemicals.

Course Duration and Sequence

Students in the Nail Technician program should expect to spend a minimum of 5 months or 450 hours in training.

Students also will be required to pass the Kentucky State Board of Cosmetology - Nail Technician Test.

Please note that with the addition of ancillary services as well as individual pace, student completion timelines will vary.

Career Options

Upon completion of the Nail Technician training program, students will be ready to obtain entry-level employment and carry out the following tasks:

Cleans and sanitizes tools and work environment: applies undercoat and polish to nails; maintains supply inventories and client service records; shapes and smooths ends of nails, using scissors, files, and/or emery boards; prepares nail cuticles with water and oil; uses cuticle knives to push back cuticles and scissors/nippers to trim cuticles; prepares customer nails in soapy water, using swabs, files, and/or orange sticks; removes previously applied nail polish; uses e-files to roughen, shape, and/or smooth nails or artificial enhancements; schedules client appointments and accepts payment; assesses the condition of client hands and feet, removes dead skin, and massages hands and feet; advises client on nail care and product use; treats nails to repair or improve strength and resilience; enhance nails using powder, liquid, and forms to support and shape nail enhancements; polishes nails, promotes and sells nail care products; decorates client nails with nail art procedures; and other tasks as required.

All students enrolled in the Nail Technician training program will have the opportunity to obtain a Kentucky State Board of Cosmetology Nail Technician License. Upon completing the Nail Technician training program, students may go on to work in a multitude of places including, but not limited to hair and nail salons, barbershops, spas, etc., and become a nail salon owner.



To learn more about this program and others, please scan the QR code.





The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or mental status in employment, or provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all program activities. Printed with Federal Funds November 2024.