

Wilco Area Career Center

2025-2026 Cosmetology, Barbering, Hair Braiding, and Nail Tech Tips and Procedures

Application Process:

1. Meet with your guidance counselor to state your interest in the program and verify you have room in your schedule.
2. Complete the Program Interest Application to show interest in participating.
 - a. Visit www.wilco.k12.il.us.
 - b. Go to the **Programs** section and select **Cosmetology**.
 - c. Look for the heading that says **Cosmetology Application**.
 - d. Click on the small blue **Read More** button.
 - e. Click **Wilco Cosmetology Application** and complete.
3. Visit your chosen cosmetology school (listed below). **It's the student and parent's responsibility to register with the selected school by signing a contract.**

Registration (January Deadline):

- Completion of the Wilco Area Career Center Application online.
- Students attending Joliet, Plainfield, or Lemont should contact the schools and ask to be put on the waiting list.
- Students attend necessary orientation/sign-up meetings scheduled by the cosmetology school.
- Students schedule Cosmetology during high school registration. If they decide not to attend the program, contact the Cosmetology school and their school counselor.
- **A student is not officially enrolled in Cosmetology until a contract has been signed with the Cosmetology school.**
- Students make the necessary payments to the school established by the individual cosmetology schools.

Attendance:

- The cosmetology schools are open throughout school and public holidays. Students are expected to attend whenever the Cosmetology schools are open.
- Students must accumulate **750 hours for cosmetology within the nine-month school year, 300 hours for hair braiding, and 350 hours for nail tech.** If they still need to meet this requirement, they must attend additional sessions at their own expense.
- Student absences must be called into both the cosmetology and high schools.
- The Nail Inn School of Cosmetology begins attendance on July 10th.

Cosmetology Schools Contact information:

Schools	Phone Numbers	Contact
Professional Choice 2719 W Jefferson St, Joliet, IL 60435	815.741.8224	Stephanie
The Nail Inn and School of Cosmetology 47 Stephen St, Lemont, IL 60439	630.243.0387	Michelle
Nail Inn Academy 160 N Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432	630.243.0387	Michelle
Franklin School of Cosmetology 519 Franklin St, Morris, IL 60450	815.942.2668	Shantel
Champion Beauty-Barber University 2011 S Rt. 59, Plainfield, IL 60586	815.671.7786	Stennis and Teresa Champion
Fusion Hair Braiding 18 Ohio St, Joliet, IL 60432	815.782.2294	LeAnn Drake

Student attendance varies per site.

Program	Days	Times	Saturday
Professional Choice - Joliet	Tuesday - Saturday	1:00-5:30 pm	Every Saturday
The Nail Inn School of Cosmetology - Lemont	Monday - Friday, some Saturdays	12:30-4:30 pm	As scheduled to make up time or gain experience.
Nail Inn Academy (Nail Tech) -Lemont or Joliet	Monday through Friday	12:30-2:30 pm	None
Franklin Institute of Cosmetology - Morris	Monday - Friday, rotational Saturdays	12:30-4:30 pm	One Saturday a month (9 am to 2 pm)
Champion Barbering – Plainfield	Monday-Thursday, Optional Fridays	12:30-5:30 pm	None
Fusion Natural Hair & Braiding Academy- Joliet	Tuesday - Saturday	12:30-2:30 pm	Every Saturday

Costs:

Although the program costs are significant, post-high school participation will cost students/parents \$18,000 – \$24,000.

Estimated Cost of Cosmetology Schools:

School	Registration	Kit	Lab Fee	Tuition	Summer/ Spring Break	Total	Payment Plan
Joliet	\$100	\$900	\$450	\$6,160	N/A	\$7,610	Yes
Lemont/Jr	\$100	\$700	\$3,100	N/A	N/A	\$3,900	Yes
Lemont/Sr	\$100	\$700	\$1,700	N/A	\$2,300	\$4,800	Yes
Nail Inn Tech	\$100	\$200	\$500	N/A	N/A	\$800	No
Morris/Jr	\$100	\$950	\$650	\$850/yr	N/A	\$3,300	Yes
Champion/ Jr. Barber	\$100	\$650	None	\$2,400	N/A	\$3,150	Yes
Champion/Sr Barber	\$100	\$650	None	\$3,600	N/A	\$4,350	Yes
Fusion	\$100	\$500	None	\$2,500	N/A	\$3,100	Yes

Participation:

Program	Timeframe	Summer School
Professional Choice - Joliet	Senior only 13-months	Yes: Before Senior Year and Following until complete
The Nail Inn School of Cosmetology - Lemont	Senior 13-months or Junior 2yr	No: Unless behind in hours or entered as a Senior
Nail Inn Academy - Lemont & Joliet	Nine-month school year	No
Franklin Institute of Cosmetology - Morris	Senior 13-months w option for Adult or Junior 2yr	No
Champion Barbering – Plainfield	Senior 13-months or Junior 2yr	Senior Yes: Junior only if behind in hours.
Fusion Natural Hair & Braiding Academy- Joliet	Nine-month school year	No

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Rules:

- Students must attend daily to earn the required hours and clock in per IDPH guidelines. Poor attendance may lead to extra fees for students/parents and drop from Wilco.
- Students must wear the assigned uniforms.
- No cell phones are permitted in class or on the clinic floor.
- No gum, piercings, or personal grooming is allowed.
- Lockers are provided to secure belongings.
- All other school rules are enforced.
- Students will receive a specific list of rules when they attend an orientation session.

Seat Availability:

- Not determined at this point. Each school is limited in the number of students it may serve based on the guidelines established by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Therefore, applications will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Transportation:

- **Students must have a car.** Wilco ACC nor the high school provides transportation to the Cosmetology schools.
- Students must possess a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.
- Students may carpool but must not depend on others as their sole transportation.

Concerns or Questions:

Please feel free to contact Wilco Area Career Center at any time with questions or concerns you may have regarding the cosmetology program. Questions should be addressed to Alicia Cook at acook@wilcoacc.org or 815.838.6941.