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**History, Physical Demands, Requirements, and Recorded Income:**

**The following are excerpts from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics:**

**OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK, 2010-11 EDITIONS**

**\*\* (*taken from the* U.S Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics) \*\***

**THE BARBER’S WORK**

Throughout history, a great deal of effort has gone into acquiring a fashionable hairstyle or a perfectly trimmed beard, dating thousands of years back in history. Although it has been many years since and styles change from year to year, the Barber's task remains the same: to make an attractive change in a person’s appearance, shampoo, cut and style hair, and advise patrons on how to properly care for their hair. The industry is rapidly growing and success with clients in making them look and feel good is what creativity and artistry is all about.

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

Barbers work in a clean, pleasant environment, with good lighting and comfortable temperatures. Their work can be tiring and physically demanding because they must be on their feet for long hours at a time and work with their hands at shoulder level. Barbers also work with sharp implements (razors) and a small amount of chemicals. Many full-time barbers work more than 40 hours a week, including evenings and weekends when barbershops are busiest.

**TRAINING, ADVANCEMENTS, AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Although all states require barbers to be licensed, the qualifications necessary to obtain a license vary. Generally, a person must have graduated from a state-licensed barber school and be at least 16 years old. In addition, states have varying educational requirements - some have no requirement, while others require graduation from high school.

In some states, completion of an apprentice-training program can substitute for graduation from a barber school, but very few barbers learn their skills in this way.

Most schools provide students with the necessary hairstyling implements, such as combs, scissors, razors, and include their cost in the tuition fee. Beginning students practice on mannequins and/or each other. Once students have gained some experience, students perform their skill on patrons in school clinic. Most schools have added unisex hairstyling as part of the teaching curriculum (Women and Men).

After graduating from a barber course, students take state licensing examinations. The examinations consist of a written exam and a practical exam. These exams allow applicants to demonstrate their theoretical knowledge and practical skill to provide the required services. In some states, an oral examination is included, and the applicant is asked to explain the procedures he or she is following while taking the practical test. Some states have reciprocity agreements that allow a barber license out of one state to be valid in another without re-examination. Currently, Arizona has reciprocity with 28 states.

For many young people, barbering serves as an entry-point to the world of work. The field is also characterized by a pattern of movement from family responsibilities into the labor force-when employment and earnings are attractive enough and back to the home again.

Persons wanting to become barbers must have finger dexterity and a sense of form and artistry. They should enjoy dealing with the public and be willing and able to follow patrons' instructions. Because hairstyles are constantly changing, barbers must keep abreast of the latest fashions and barber techniques. Business skills are important for those who plan to operate their own salons. Many schools help their students find jobs. Advancement usually is in the form of higher earnings as barbers gain experience and build a steady clientele, but many manage large salons or open their own after

several years of experience. Some teach in barber schools or use their knowledge and skill to demonstrate cutting on platform. Others become demonstrators, manufacturer representatives, research assistants, and trade technicians or technical supervisors. Other possibilities include state board members, state board examiners, and educational directors.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Barbers, cosmetologists, and other personal appearance workers held about 821, 900 jobs in 2008. Of these, barbers and cosmetologists held 684,200 jobs, manicurists and pedicurists 76,000, skin care specialists 38,800, and shampooers 22,900.

Most of these workers are employed in personal care services establishments, such as beauty salons, barber shops, nail salons, day and resort spas. Others were employed in nursing and other residential care homes. Nearly every town has a barbershop or beauty salon, but employment in this occupation is concentrated in the most populous cities and states.

About 44% of all barbers, cosmetologists, and other personal appearance workers are self-employed. Many of these workers own their own salon, but a growing number of the self-employed lease booth space or a chair from the salon’s owner. In this case, workers provide their own supplies, and are responsible for paying their own taxes and benefits. They may pay a monthly or weekly fee to the salon owner, who is responsible for utilities and maintenance of the building.

**JOB OUTLOOK:**

Employment of barbers, cosmetologists, and other personal appearance workers is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations. Opportunities for entry level workers should be favorable, while job candidates at high-end establishments will face keen competition.

• The total number of employment in the field as of 2008, 821,900

• Projected employment through to 2018, 987,400

• Change is employment 2008-2018, 165,500

• Percentage of increase in jobs, 20%

**EARNINGS**

Median hourly wages in May 2008 for barbers, including tips, were $11.56. The middle 50% earned between $8.93 and $14.69. The lowest 10% earned less than $7.56 and the highest 10% earned more than $19.51.

By signing, I understand the information recorded,

**Student Name Student Signature Date**