

SKINCARE SPECIALISTS

SUMMARY



Skincare specialists provide treatments, such as peels, masks, or scrubs, to remove dead or dry skin.

Quick Facts: Skincare Specialists	
2016 Median Pay	\$30,270 per year \$14.55 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Postsecondary nondegree award
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2016	61,300
Job Outlook, 2016-26	14% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2016-26	8,500

What Skincare Specialists Do

Skincare specialists cleanse and beautify the face and body to enhance a person's appearance.

Work Environment

Skincare specialists usually work in salons and beauty and health spas, and some are self-employed. Although most work full time, many work 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, which all states except Connecticut require.

Pay

The median hourly wage for skincare specialists was \$14.55 in May 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of skincare specialists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. The desire among many women and a growing number of men to reduce the effects of aging will result in employment growth. Good job opportunities are expected.

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 SKINCARE SPECIALISTS DO



Skincare specialists remove unwanted hair using wax or laser treatment. Skincare specialists cleanse and beautify the face and body to enhance a person's appearance.

DUTIES

Skincare specialists typically do the following:

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

Skincare specialists give facials, full-body treatments, and head and neck massages to improve the health and appearance of the skin. Some may provide other skin care treatments, such as peels, masks, and scrubs, to remove dead or dry skin.

In addition, skincare specialists create daily skincare routines for clients based on skin analysis and help them understand which skincare products will work best for them. A growing number of specialists actively sell skincare products, such as cleansers, lotions, and creams.

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.

WORK ENVIRONMENT



Skincare specialists work in salons, beauty spas, and sometimes in medical offices.

Skincare specialists held about 61,300 jobs in 2016. The industries that employed the most skincare specialists were as follows:

Personal care services.....	47%
Self Employed Workers.....	28%
Offices of physicians	8%
Health and personal care stores	6%
Other amusement and recreation industries	3%

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.

WORK SCHEDULES

Skincare specialists typically work full time, with many working evenings and weekends. Working more than 40 hours a week is common.

HOW TO BECOME A SKINCARE SPECIALIST



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

Skincare specialists must complete a state-approved cosmetology or esthetician program and then pass a state exam for licensure, which all states except Connecticut require.

EDUCATION

Skincare specialists usually take a state-approved cosmetology or esthetician program. Although some high schools offer vocational training, most people receive their training from a postsecondary vocational school. The [Associated Skin Care Professionals](#), the largest organization devoted to these workers, offers a [State Regulation Guide](#), which includes the number of prerequisite hours required to complete a cosmetology program.

TRAINING

Newly hired specialists sometimes receive on-the-job training, especially if their jobs require working with chemicals. Those who are employed in a medical environment also may receive on-the-job training, often working alongside an experienced skincare specialist.

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 provides contact information on state examinations for licensing, with sample exam questions. The Professional Beauty Association and the American Association of Cosmetology Schools also provide information on state examinations, as well as offering other professional links.

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.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

Business skills. Skincare specialists who run their own salon must understand general business principles. For example, they should be skilled at administrative tasks, such as accounting and personnel management, and be able to manage a salon efficiently and profitably.

Customer-service skills. Skincare specialists should be friendly and courteous to their clients. Repeat business is important, particularly for self-employed workers.

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

Physical stamina. Skincare specialists must be able to spend most of their day standing and massaging clients' faces and bodies.

Tidiness. Workers must keep a neat personal appearance and keep their work area clean and sanitary. This requirement is necessary for the health and safety of their clients and increases the likelihood that clients will return.

Time-management skills. Time-management skills are important in scheduling appointments and providing services.

PAY

SKINCARE SPECIALISTS

Median hourly wages, May 2015

Total, all occupations.....	\$17.81
Skincare specialists	\$14.55
Personal appearance workers.....	\$11.48

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

The median hourly wage for skincare specialists was \$14.55 in May 2016. 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 \$8.96, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$28.74.

In May 2015, the median hourly wages for skincare specialists in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

Offices of physicians	\$17.96
Other amusement and recreation industries	\$14.22
Personal care services	\$12.44
Health and personal care stores	\$12.04

Skincare specialists typically work full time, and many work evenings and weekends. Working more than 40 hours a week is common, especially for self-employed workers.

JOB OUTLOOK

SKINCARE SPECIALISTS

Percent change in employment, projected 2016-26

Skincare specialists.....	14%
Personal appearance workers	13%
Total, all occupations	7%

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

Employment of skincare specialists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations.

The increase in employment reflects demand for new services being offered, such as mini-sessions (quick facials at a lower cost) and mobile facials (making house calls). In addition, the desire among many women and a growing number of men to reduce the effects of aging and to lead a healthier lifestyle through better grooming, including skin treatments for relaxation and well-being, should result in employment growth.

JOB PROSPECTS

Job opportunities should be good because of the growing number of beauty salons and spas. Those with related work experience should have the best job opportunities.

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2016	Projected Employment, 2026	Change, 2016-26	
				Percent	Numeric
Skincare specialists	39-5094	61,300	69,700	14	8,500

STATE & AREA DATA

Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) 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 OES data maps for employment and wages by state and area.

<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes395094.htm#st>

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.

Career InfoNet (<http://www.careerinfonet.org/>)

America's Career InfoNet 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.

SIMILAR OCCUPATIONS

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

OCCUPATION	JOB DUTIES	ENTRY-LEVEL EDUCATION	2015 MEDIAN PAY
Barbers, Hairdressers, and Cosmetologists	Barbers, hairdressers, and cosmetologists provide haircutting, hairstyling, and a range of other beauty services.	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$23,710
Manicurists and Pedicurists	Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails.	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$20,820
Massage Therapists	Massage therapists treat clients by using touch to manipulate the muscles and other soft tissues of the body. With their touch, therapists relieve pain, help heal injuries, improve circulation, relieve stress, increase relaxation, and aid in the general wellness of clients.	Postsecondary nondegree award	\$38,040

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about skincare specialists, visit

Aesthetics International Association
<http://www.aestheticssassociation.com/>

Associated Skin Care Professionals
<http://www.ascpskincare.com/>

For information about cosmetology schools, visit

American Association of Cosmetology Schools
<http://beautyschools.org/>

For information about the spa industry, visit

International Spa Association
<http://experienceispa.com/>

For information about state licensing, practice exams, and other professional links, visit

National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology
<https://nictesting.org/>

Professional Beauty Association
<https://probeauty.org/links>

O*NET

Skincare Specialists
<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/39-5094.00>

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Skincare Specialists, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oooh/personal-care-and-service/skincare-specialists.htm> (visited March 20, 2018).

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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

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