February 17, 2020

I’ve been in the cosmetology business approximately 51 years. Owning 5 salons of my own, to directing the operations of over 600 salons in North America for Glemby International, Premier, MEI-Regis and Saks Fifth Avenue. Currently I still own, for over 20 years, a successful walk-in salon that offers not only hair cutting, but also offers hair color, perms and waxing.

I’ve interviewed in person, over 1000 licensed cosmetologists all over the country but mostly in the state of Ohio. I have never hired a licensed cosmetologist from a vocational school of 1,000 hours in Ohio due to the following reasons:

1. Extreme lack of confidence in servicing a client; not enough time spent on all skills.
2. Grad students from a 1000 hour course usually hop salons for the first several years due to lack of experience.
3. Not comfortable with chemical services such as hair color techniques, permanent waving and waxing, which stifles their growth and income.
4. Can’t use clippers with success and comfort.
5. Lack the ability to communicate with the customers in their chair.
6. Stylists leave the business because of inability to service customers at a level needed to succeed.

As a salon owner, I want to hire a licensed stylist that can perform all the hair services we offer. How can a person work in a salon when your skills are limited? Also as a business owner, I don’t want to hire an employee that needs trained or wants to learn on my salon clients. Completing 1500 to 1800 hour program is essential for hands-on experience and the ability to learn chemical services, waxing and skin services.

After all, the definition of a cosmetologist; the professional skill or practice of beautifying the Face, Hair & Skin. It’s not just cutting hair, there is so much more!
In my position now, I see students start the course of cosmetology and watch their progression throughout the 1800 hours. Every day I see students practicing chemical services, hair cutting and styling on customers. A student that graduates with more experience at 1800 hours, definitely shows when they start their first job.

How can one learn about the skin and nails too in a 1000 hour course? We are a skilled profession and under our license we must know:

- Hair Cutting
- Hair Styling
- Hair Coloring Techniques
- Permanent Waving
- Relaxing Hair
- Waxing
- Manicures
- Pedicures
- Assorted Facials
- Relaxation Massages
- Tweezing
- The use of products for hair, skin and nails.
- Identification and differences of disease and disorders.
- How to maintain hair, skin and nails in a safe healthy way.

When experience and practice is lacking in in these areas, as well as proper sanitation practices, it can have horrific results. More than 1000 hours is needed to gain experience, and for the safety of their clients.

Best Regards,

Carly Allen