

# NAIL TECHNOLOGY

## “Career and School Information You Should Know”

### Illinois Licensing Requirements for Nail Technicians

Each applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Is at least 16 years of age.
2. Has graduated from a high school or equivalent.
3. Has graduated from a cosmetology or nail technology school approved by the Department having completed 350 hours in the study of nail technology extending over a period of not less than 8 weeks, nor more than 2 consecutive years and including the following: (a) theory, (b) manicuring and pedicuring, (c) nail treatment, (d) sanitary rules and sterilization, and (e) related electives.
4. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine fitness to receive a license as a nail technician.
5. Has met any other requirements of this Act.

**Safety Requirements:** The practice of nail technology involves the use of sharp implements as well as chemicals that could be hazardous. Attention to proper safety procedures, which protect both client and technician, are very important, and will be taught during the course.

**Physical Demands:** The physical demands for a nail technician are primarily the extensive use of the hands for manicuring and related massage services, and the exposure to inhaled chemicals that may be used in application of artificial nails.

**Compensation:** A study conducted for the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences, *Job Demand in the Cosmetology Industry, 2007*, found that the total number of salons is up 18.3% and number of salon professionals is up 5%. The number of chairs or workstations is unchanged at 5.1% and the number of employees leaving their positions is down 13%. Nearly 40% of all new positions were filled by inexperienced workers.

This national survey also found that 53% of salon owners reported that they had job openings. The average salon income, including tips, is about \$30,000 - \$48,000/year. While nail technicians only make up 9.7% of the current industry employees, nearly 18% of the job openings are in this area. A license in nail technology offers you many career opportunities, such as: nail technician, manicurist, pedicurist, school instructor, salon owner/manager, sales representative, and more. Nail technicians may choose to work in a salon setting, independently or as booth rental contractors. Most nail technicians work on commission, so earnings vary depending on the length of time in the business, and the ability to build and retain clientele. Many salons offer guaranteed salary to start with benefit packages, including insurance, retirement, vacation pay, and bonuses. A fun and successful career is in your future!

**NACCAS Completion Rates:** As reported in our most recent accreditation annual report, out of 151 students scheduled to graduate in 2018, 100 graduated within 150% of the scheduled course time, or 66%. Out of the 151 students scheduled to graduate in 2018, 51 students did not complete the program. A four-year average graduation rate for all USCA programs, 2015-2018 is 65%. *For the Nail Technology program, 17 students were scheduled to graduate in 2018, 14 graduated within 150% of the scheduled course time, or 82%. Out of the 17 students scheduled to graduate in 2018, 3 students did not complete the program.*

**NACCAS Licensing Exam Pass/Fail Rates:** Out of 99 graduates who took the exam in 2018, 95 passed, or 96%. A four-year average for 2015-2018, for all USCA programs, was 97%. *For the Nail Technology program, 14 graduates who took the exam in 2018, 14 passed, or 100%.*

**NACCAS Placement Rates:** Out of 100 graduates in 2018, 80 responded to surveys that they had found a job in their field, or 80%. Others did not respond to the survey. A four-year average for 2015-2018, is 79%. *For the Nail Technology program, out of the 14 graduates in 2018, 10 responded to surveys that they had found a job in their field, or 71%.*