



FIRST-YEAR BENCHMARKS COSMETOLOGY STUDENTS

The mission of the Mercer County Career Center is to equip students with marketable skills through effective Career and Technical Education. This mission as it relates to the Cosmetology program means preparing students with the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully pass the Cosmetology State Board Exam. Without this license, students cannot practice Cosmetology in the state of Pennsylvania.

Upon completing the third marking period, all first-year students attending Mercer County Career Center will be evaluated using Benchmarks. Benchmarks are an indicator of future success in the field and for further training. Students in Cosmetology are required to meet benchmarks to enhance their chances of taking and passing the state board exam. Students who are unable to meet benchmarks will be referred to the Guidance Counselor or to the Special Education Support team if they receive special education services. These staff will facilitate students in the design of a career path better suited to meet their needs. Career Center staff, in collaboration with the student, and their families will help to develop a modified program option, a change in course at the Career Center, or a full schedule at the student's home school that does not include technical education. Cosmetology students that do not meet benchmarks may not remain in the program for the following year.

- Students cannot sit for the State Board exam unless they acquire 1250 hours of training. To ensure that our students meet this requirement, they can miss no more than eight days during the school year. Any student exceeding six days absent must provide a doctor's excuse. Family emergencies, a death in the family, or other personal circumstances that require the student to be absent must be reported to the Cosmetology Instructor and documented with a signed excuse. School related absences do not count against a student, but hours are not awarded when students are not present. Multiple days of absence can significantly reduce the number of hours that a student earns and can impact a student's successful completion of hours.
- Obtain a final letter grade no lower than a 65% for the semester most recently completed.
- Complete the S/P2 On-line Safety Course for Cosmetology.
- Perform a one length haircut with proper sectioning in 30 minutes with at least an 80% performance grade.
- Section and weave a full head of weaved foils one inch apart in 60 minutes at an 80% performance rate.
- Section and wrap a full head perm in 75 minutes with at least an 80% performance grade.
- Complete a full head curling iron set and a comb out style in 45 minutes with at least an 80% performance grade.
- Complete the previous two grading period Skill Set Requirements with at least an 80% performance grade.