Cosmetology
**Test Type:** The Cosmetology industry-based credential is included in NOCTI’s Job Ready assessment battery. Job Ready assessments measure technical skills at the occupational level and include items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge. Job Ready assessments typically offer both a written and performance component and can be used at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Job Ready assessments can be delivered in an online or paper/pencil format.

**Revision Team:** The assessment content is based on input from secondary, post-secondary, and business/industry representatives from the states of Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

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**CIP Code**
12.0401- Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General

**Career Cluster 10**
Human Services

**O*NET**
39-5012.00- Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the leading professional organization for career and technical educators, commends all students who participate in career and technical education programs and choose to validate their educational attainment through rigorous technical assessments. In taking this assessment you demonstrate to your school, your parents and guardians, your future employers and yourself that you understand the concepts and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace. Good Luck!

Today’s Class delivers web-based interactive educational programs and has determined that there is significant alignment between their Cosmetology curriculum and NOCTI’s Cosmetology technical skill assessment. The alignment suggests that use of the Today’s Class program curriculum may enhance student scores on NOCTI’s assessment.

In the lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in Fundamentals of Cosmetology.
Written Assessment

NOCTI written assessments consist of questions to measure an individual’s factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours
**Number of Questions:** 180
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one, two, or three sessions.

### Areas Covered

- **Safety and Sanitation:** 20%
- **Scientific Concepts:** 23%
- **Salon-Related Business Skills:** 13%
- **Physical Services:** 11%
- **Chemical Services:** 19%
- **Hair Designing:** 14%
Specific Standards and Competencies Included in this Assessment

Safety and Sanitation
- Apply techniques to ensure client safety and protection
- Identify and demonstrate the three levels of decontamination and disinfection
- Identify concepts of salon-related ecology and bacteriology
- Demonstrate appropriate first-aid and workplace safety procedures
- Select and utilize appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for specific tasks
- Display knowledge of SDS information and OSHA regulations

Scientific Concepts
- Identify scientific components of hair and scalp
- Identify scientific components of nails
- Identify scientific components of skin
- Exhibit basic knowledge of histology, anatomy, and physiology
- Describe electrical safety including UV and other electrotherapy techniques

Salon-Related Business Skills
- Demonstrate knowledge of pay scales and compensation plans
- Distinguish types of salon ownership and licensures
- Display professional client interactions and sales techniques
- Complete and maintain appropriate client and salon records

(Continued on the following page)
Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

Physical Services
- Apply knowledge of hair care (e.g., shampoos, conditioners)
- Apply knowledge of facial procedures, hair removal, and make-up services
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of manicuring services, including natural and artificial nail services
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of pedicuring services

Chemical Services
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of hair coloring, including corrective coloring
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of hair lightening
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of chemical hair relaxing, permanent waving, and restructuring

Hair Designing
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of various hair cutting or texturizing techniques (male and female)
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of various hair styling techniques, including base control (e.g., braiding, finger waving, pin curls)
- Apply understanding of hair enhancement methods and procedures (e.g., wigs, extensions, hair fusions)
- Apply knowledge and proficiency of various thermal techniques, including hair pressing, blow-drying, and flat ironing
Sample Questions

Put waste materials, such as hair from combs and brushes in a
A. covered trash container  
B. corner  
C. waste basket  
D. neat pile

Proper hair care includes
A. shampooing hair every day  
B. scalp and hair cleansing  
C. using a moisturizing shampoo  
D. using a protein conditioner

In a chain salon, malpractice insurance is the responsibility of the
A. landlord  
B. stockholder  
C. employee  
D. salon owner

Treat brittle nails and dry cuticles with a/an
A. cuticle pusher  
B. hand massage  
C. extended soaking time  
D. oil manicure

When using a blow dryer, direct the air from the scalp to the
A. crown area  
B. nape  
C. apex  
D. hair ends

(Continued on the following page)
Sample Questions (continued)

A _____ haircut is an example of a 180-degree haircut.
A. uniform  
B. graduated  
C. long-layered  
D. blunt

What is the chemical symbol for hydrogen peroxide?
A. $H_2O$  
B. $H_2O_2$  
C. $H_2O_3$  
D. $H_2O_4$

Successful lightening and coloring of the hair depends on hair
A. density  
B. texture  
C. porosity  
D. elasticity

The chief sensory nerve of the face is the
A. scalp  
B. trifacial  
C. optical  
D. sinus

If a stylist earns $9.15 an hour and works 40 hours a week, the weekly salary would be
A. $266.00  
B. $286.00  
C. $366.00  
D. $386.00
NOCTI performance assessments allow individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Jobs:** 5

**Areas Covered:**

**19% 90-Degree Haircut**  
Participant will maintain cleanliness of materials and implements, use appropriate draping, use correct haircutting techniques, texturize correctly, handle implements properly, and dispose of the hair.

**19% Blow Dry, Curl, and Press Hair**  
Participant will maintain cleanliness of materials and implements, use appropriate draping, and blow dry the hair, use correct flat iron or Marcel iron technique, and leave workstation in a clean and orderly condition.

**29% Chemical Applications**  
Participant will maintain cleanliness of materials and implements, use appropriate draping for chemical service, section hair correctly, wear protective gloves, use correct retouch, foil highlight, first-time relaxer, and permanent waving techniques, and leave workstation in a clean and orderly condition.

**16% Manicure**  
Participant will sanitize hands, table, and mannequin’s hands, maintain cleanliness of materials and implements, use correct manicure technique, and leave workstation in a clean and orderly condition.

**17% Facial**  
Participant will sanitize table and hands, maintain cleanliness of materials and implements, use appropriate draping and proper facial technique, and leave workstation in a clean and orderly condition.
**Sample Job**

**Manicure**

**Maximum Time:** 20 minutes

**Participant Activity:** The participant will sanitize a manicure table and arrange supplies and implements, perform a full manicure including a hand massage, remove excess cream from nails, and polish nails with 1 base coat, 2 coats of dark polish and 1 top coat.