Q Is Empire an accredited school? What does that mean?

A Empire Education Group schools – which include all Empire Beauty Schools and Hair Design Schools – are accredited through the National Accrediting Commission of Career Arts and Sciences (NACCAS). In order to become accredited, we must set and maintain very particular standards related to our curriculum, school and policies. What our accreditation means for you is that you are attending a school that is formally approved and recognized for meeting national standards of educational performance. Accreditation is considered to be the most reliable measure of a school’s concern for integrity toward its students and its ability to deliver quality education. For more information about NACCAS, please visit www.naccas.org.

We are required by NACCAS to meet standards for the number of our students who graduate (completion rates), the percentage of graduates who become licensed (licensure rates), and the percentage of graduates that are eligible for employment who actually obtain jobs in the career field (placement rates). We will be happy to show you each of these numbers; please ask the Career Planning Specialist or Executive Director at any of our campuses for that specific school’s rates.

Empire Beauty Schools is also recognized by the State Board of Cosmetology, State Department of Education, or other designated State authority in each of the states where we have schools. That means that after you complete all of your educational requirements at our school and are ready to get your license, your credentials and qualifications will be recognized.

Q What will I have to do to get my cosmetology license?

A Your education at Empire Beauty Schools is aimed at preparing you to pass both the practical and theory portions of the State Board Licensure Examination as well as to become employed in the cosmetology field. Good attendance and high academic achievement will be very important in learning the information and skills you’ll need to obtain your license. Every Empire Beauty Schools campus offers mock-State Board examinations once per month. You can attend these exams both as a student as well as an alumnus. It is important that you begin to prepare for your licensing exam before you graduate so that you become licensed and secure a job in the career field soon after graduation.

You will need to complete an application for licensure at the end of your education and schedule your date and time for your exam. There will be a fee associated with taking the exam, and in order to assist you in obtaining your license and starting your career as quickly and easily as possible, we include all licensure fees (including state-specific fees for your temporary license fee, application fee, license fee, theory and practical exams) in your cost of attending school. If you need to withdraw from school for any reason, this charge will be credited. Please ask the Career Planning Specialist or Executive Director at any of our campuses for additional state-specific information about licensure requirements and exam logistics.

Q How much money can I make as a cosmetologist?

A The average income for a cosmetologist can vary depending on where you work, your experience, the number of clients you have and the amount of professional products you sell. Factors such as how skilled and how ambitious you are in your personal career will also impact your income potential. Please refer to the income information in the Empire Edge Book provided during your visit to our campus and through the website mentioned below.

A note on the income information presented in the Empire Edge Book: NACCAS explains the difference between the income potential published in their most recent Job Demand Survey and the income potential published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by stating that the BLS excludes proprietors, the unincorporated and self-employed workers from their study. NACCAS estimates that as many as 34% of establishments in the cosmetology industry are booth renter salons or a combination of booth renter/employer-owned salons, which would have been excluded from the BLS survey.¹ ²

For more information about our graduation rates, the median loan debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.empire.edu/consumer-info.

How will Empire help me find a job?

A It is up to you to complete the program; we can only provide you with an education when you are in school, and we do not guarantee employment based on completion of the program. However, Empire Beauty Schools offers employment assistance services. We will help you prepare and search for available jobs, and we have partnerships with several large employers in the industry including the many salon brands owned by Regis Corporation. Our relationship with Regis and other salon brands doesn’t guarantee you’ll get the job, but we will help you locate newly posted positions. We also maintain placement listings at each school from local employers who are looking for Empire grads to fill cosmetology positions at their businesses. Our ultimate goal is to educate the future professionals of the cosmetology industry so that you can carve out a lifelong career that you’re interested in and find satisfying – in whichever cosmetology career path you choose!

How much time will I spend in school?

Q How much time will I spend in a classroom and in the student salon or clinic?

A Our cosmetology program is broken into 2 different segments: Pre-Salon/Core Education and Student Salon/Clinic Education. The required number of clock or credit hours is determined on a state-by-state basis, so please ask the Career Planning Specialist or Executive Director at any of our campuses to outline how much time you will spend in school and at each educational level.

How much does it cost to enroll?

Q How much is tuition?

A When you complete your enrollment paperwork to register for school, you will need to make a $100 payment which is your enrollment fee. The enrollment fee is fully refundable if you choose to cancel your enrollment within a specific number of days of signing the Enrollment Agreement. That time period varies by state and is cited on the Enrollment Agreement.

The program tuition is calculated at an hourly rate times the total number of clock or credit hours required to complete the entire program. The number of clock or credit hours required for each program varies by state, so please ask the Career Planning Specialist or Executive Director at any of our campuses to outline the total number of clock or credit hours and total tuition charge. At some schools, a tuition deposit may be required. The tuition deposit is due on a fixed date prior to your first day of school and is applied toward your tuition for the total cost of the program. In addition to your tuition there is a charge for your student kit, which includes textbooks, mannequins and tools you will need during your education at Empire.

Do I have to participate in the Future Professionals Expo and Masters of Beauty programs?

Q No. Both the Future Professionals Expo (FPE) and Masters of Beauty programs are optional. These events are industry-related and educationally-relevant, but are separate from your education in your enrolled program of study. As such, both programs require an additional charge outside of your program tuition. Information about the events, including the cost of each, is available at every Empire Beauty Schools campus, so please ask the Career Planning Specialist or Executive Director at any of our campuses for additional information.

How can I pay for my education?

Q Do you offer Financial Assistance?

A We want you to make the decision to attend Empire Beauty Schools because it’s the right place to help you achieve your career goals. We know that part of making that decision will be considering how you will pay for your education. Think about your personal finances – how much money you make, how much money you spend on your bills and other payments and how much money is left over at the end of the month. Also, think about any help you might have from family and friends and discuss with them how you can work together to make your education affordable.

A guide to student self-payment options is available in our school catalog. If you are interested in applying for federal financial assistance, we will provide you with a packet that outlines step-by-step, easy-to-understand instructions to guide you through the application process. You are also welcome to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA application) at any time.

After you make the decision that Empire is the right place for you and you enroll in our school, Empire will create an individualized financial plan for you. We have a dedicated Financial Assistance Department which will explain any financial assistance for which you choose to apply and are qualified to receive. Any questions you have regarding financial assistance will be answered either by our Financial Assistance Department or through the Federal Student Aid Information Center. We want to make sure you have a full understanding of your financial investment in your education and that you feel comfortable and confident in the application, disbursement and repayment processes.

When you review your financial plan, if it does not meet your personal financial needs, you can cancel your enrollment within the number of days stated on your Enrollment Agreement for a full refund of your enrollment fee. For additional information about Financial Assistance, please visit the Federal Student Aid website at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov or Empire’s Financial Assistance Website at http://financial.empire.edu.