

Reminder- cleanup is part of the competition.
All tables and chair need to be folded and stacked.
Everything must be removed from the competition floor.
Any items that go on the truck need to be moved to the truck.

SkillsUSA Virginia SLC 2026 Cosmetology Competition



Cosmetology-2026 SkillsUSA Virginia State Leadership Conference and Skills Championships

Date: *March 09, 2026 - March 11, 2026*

Location: *Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia*

March 9:Contest Orientation 4 p.m.

March 10: Contest 8 a.m.

Orientation Meeting:

There will be a mandatory meeting for the advisors and contestants on **Monday, March 9**, in the seating section by the contest site. This will be the time for questions to be answered by the contest chairs. **All Resumes will be submitted at this time.**

Purpose:

To evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of cosmetology.

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with cosmetology as an occupational objective. Each state may send one high school and one college/postsecondary entry.

Class F: Competition Specific — Barbering, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Nail Care

Official SkillsUSA white dress shirt or official white polo/A white button-down or white polo shirt is acceptable for the SLC

- Black dress slacks
- Black work or dress shoes (non-skid and completely enclosed, no open-toe or open-heel)

Note: Wearing socks or hose is not required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks, and hose must be either black or skin-tone and seamless/non-pattern.

Note: The Official SkillsUSA white cosmetology smock or apron can be worn with a white dress shirt.

Note: Competitors must wear their official competition clothing to the competition orientation.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Note: This is not the State Board: you do not need three bags

1. Supplied by the technical committee:

- a. All pictures or literature of styles, haircuts and techniques, and/or specialized process details related to the competition's tasks.

Note: Pictures will not be provided until competition time.

2. Supplied by the competitor:

Manikins: Debra Deluxe, Catherine

- a. Cutting, shears
- b. Thinning shears
- c. Razor and spare blade
- d. Clippers
- e. Thermal tools (flat iron and/or curling iron)
- f. Blow dryer
- g. Styling product(s) of choice
- h. Combs
- i. Brushes
- j. Spray bottle (filled with water)
- k. Towels (minimum of one)
- l. Hair clips

m. Tripod and manikin stands for mannequin head

- n. All competitors must create a one-page, single-sided resume, turned in during orientation.
- o. All competitors will complete a [sketch head sheet](#) that identifies the color pattern design that you used in the hair color portion of the competition.

PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches, and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition's national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.

Penalties for Prohibited Devices

If a competitor's electronic device makes noise or if the competitor is seen using it at any time during the competition, an official report will be documented for review by the Director of the SkillsUSA Championships. If confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner that compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor's scores may be removed.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is defined by industry standards as identified by the SkillsUSA technical committee.

The competition is divided into four separate skill performance tests, one written test, and a verbal communications evaluation.

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The competition will include a test assessing general knowledge of cosmetology: competitors will take this during the competition. Competitors are required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

A verbal communications evaluation will assess competitors' verbal presentation skills. The four separate skill performance tests assess skills in haircutting, hair styling, hair color, and long hair design at multiple performance stations. Creativity is assessed in the long hair and hair color design portions of the competition, while haircutting is evaluated in the re-creation of one long haircut and one short haircut working from a picture (which will be provided at the time of the competition). Technical skills are assessed through a uniform layered haircut.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. The competition rules will be reviewed during orientation. After the review session, competitors, in their required competition dress, will take the verbal communications evaluation and knowledge test. Competitors will then be escorted to the competition site to receive final instructions.
2. **The long-haired mannequin will be colored before the competition.**
 - a. For the long hair design, no ornaments, hairpieces, or any type of enhancements made of hair are allowed.
 - b. No eyelashes are allowed.
 - c. The hair may not be cut and not pre-curled**
 - d. Volume-based inserts, such as donut buns, will be allowed.
3. All competitors must keep their work area clean and organized.
4. Professional attitude and communication are expected throughout the competition.
5. Once time is called, competitors must stop working. Touching the hair of the mannequin or model after time is called and will result in three penalty points.
6. Cell phones must be turned off during the competition. Smartwatches are prohibited.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

CO 1.0 — Long Hair Design: Create a long hair design of your choice within a one-hour timed period

- 1.1. Style hair to produce a range of special effects in an upswept position
- 1.2. Incorporate applicable techniques such as braiding, twisting, rolls, loops, etc.
- 1.3. Secure hair with hairpins, bobby pins, and bands as applicable. **Volume-based inserts (donut bun) are allowed.
- 1.4. Create a design that is clean and smooth, showing no backcombing and back brushing under the finished style
- 1.5. Style hair so that hairpins, bobby pins, and bands are not exposed
- 1.6. Demonstrate balance, proportion, and form in the finished design
- 1.7. Show control of texture and control of hair direction in the finished design
- 1.8. Long hair design should be complemented by the color design
- 1.9. Incorporate current trends

CO 2.0 — Long-Hair Cut and Design: Duplicate a haircut and style that has been selected by the national technical committee within a 45-minute timed period

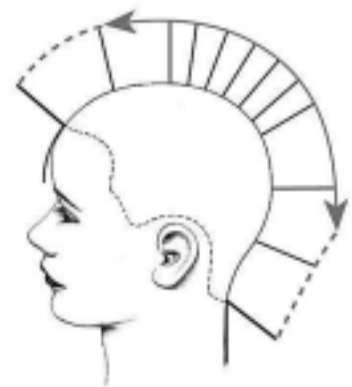
- 2.1. Duplicate the haircut using shears, thinning shears, texturizing shears, razors, and/or clippers as needed
- 2.2. Duplicate the length, design line, and textured look of the selected cut
- 2.3. Duplicate the finished design using a blow dryer or thermal tools such as a curling iron, flat iron, etc., as needed
- 2.4. Use appropriate styling products to duplicate the selected haircut
- 2.5. Duplicate the balance of form, control of texture, and the control of the hair direction

CO 3.0 — Short Hair Cut and Design: Duplicate a determined haircut and design that has been selected by the national technical committee within a 45-minute timed period

- 3.1. Duplicate the haircut using shears, thinning shears, texturizing shears, razor and/or clipper, as needed
- 3.2. Duplicate the length and design line of the selected cut
- 3.3. Duplicate the finished design using a blow dryer, or thermal tools such as curling iron, flat iron, etc., as needed
- 3.4. Use appropriate styling products to duplicate the selected haircut
- 3.5. Duplicate the balance of form, control of texture, and the control of hair direction

CO 4.0 — Uniform Layer Haircut (90 Degree) (see drawing) Haircut Procedure: Create a uniform layer (90-degree) haircut and design with criteria selected by the national technical committee within a 45-minute timed period, styling the hair with a hair dryer and fingers only ** No picture

- 4.1. Assemble tools (shears, comb, clips, and blow dryer) and prepare station
- 4.2. Part and clip hair into four sections



- 4.3. Drop a ½-inch hairline guide around the entire perimeter
- 4.4. Establish the design length around the back perimeter at a 0-degree elevation
- 4.5. Establish the design length around the front perimeter at a 0-degree elevation
- 4.6. Check to ensure that the front and back design lines are balanced and connected as needed.
- 4.7. Establish the same length interior guide at the top of the head (apex, crown)
- 4.8. Continue cutting from the apex/crown to the front design line to establish an interior guide at the top of the head
- 4.9. Continue cutting from the apex/crown to the center back design line to complete the interior guide
- 4.10. Use vertical partings to connect guides to complete the cut
- 4.11. Maintain a constant 90-degree elevation throughout the procedure
- 4.12. Follow a traveling guide to maintain uniformly layered lengths
- 4.13. Perform a cross-check of the procedure for accuracy and finish if necessary
- 4.14. The finished cut is uniformly blended
- 4.15. Blow hair dry to frame the face
- 4.16. Clean, sweep and organize the station

CO 5.0 — Verbal Communication Skills: Follow verbal and written instructions, respond to questions, and demonstrate customer service skills by phone in a two-minute simulated work scenario

- 5.1. Identify the salon by name
- 5.2. Introduce yourself to the client
- 5.3. Ask for the client's first and last name
- 5.4. Use the client's name during the call
- 5.5. Ask for the client's phone number
- 5.6. Offer additional salon services or special services
- 5.7. Ask clients if they need directions to the salon
- 5.8. Verify the date and time of the haircut appointment
- 5.9. Ask clients if they have any questions
- 5.10. Thank the client for calling
- 5.11. Use a pleasant voice; be friendly, helpful, and sincere.