



Dog Grooming Program

If you love animals, why not pursue a career that allows you to work with them every day?

Learn the skills you need to become a dog groomer with Harford Community College's Dog Grooming Program. Our Dog Grooming Certificate can be earned in less than 6 months, and includes a hands-on externship in a grooming salon!

Why Become a Dog Groomer?

A professional dog groomer is someone who enjoys an artistic and rewarding career, assisting pet owners in keeping their dogs looking their best. Groomers may be found working in pet salons, veterinary hospitals, mobile grooming facilities, or even from their own home. With more than 84.6 million American families owning one or more dogs, professional grooming is a thriving industry with a bright future. According to [payscale.com](https://www.payscale.com), the 2016 national median pay of a professional groomer was \$29,615, with a projected employment growth rate of 11% from 2014-2024 (Bureau of Labor Statistics), faster than the average for all occupations in the U.S.

On-Site Training

You will work with a variety of dogs so you can be confident on your first day working in your new career. After you have completed the Dog Grooming Program, you can be employed as a pet stylist or start your own pet grooming business. In addition to in-class lecture and hands-on time, you will also receive practice during an externship in a grooming salon. Our instructors will guide you through each grooming session, providing feedback every step of the way – something that's not possible in an online grooming course. Real world experience equals real world results.

Program begins April 1, 2019 (required prerequisite course is on February 24, 2019).

Want more information? Contact JeanMarie Lewis, jmlewis@harford.edu or Michelle Skinner, mskinner@harford.edu for additional details, or visit Harford.edu/grooming.

Dog Grooming Courses (must be taken in order)

Animal First Aid and CPR (2/24)

Animal first aid is the immediate care given to an injured or suddenly ill pet until competent veterinary care is available. This course provides information on caring for dogs and cats as well as guidance about how to determine when pets need professional treatment. Topics include initial assessment, restraint application, basic emergency care, CPR, common illnesses and injuries, and medication administration. **Course requirement for all Dog Grooming Program students.**

Dog Grooming I: Introduction to Dog Grooming (4/1-4/19)

Learn about the role and responsibilities of a dog groomer as you explore the skills needed for the workplace. Covering the fundamental basics of dog grooming, you will receive both lecture and hands-on instruction on topics such as dog anatomy & breed identification; animal behavior & handling; sanitation; ethics & welfare; customer relations; equipment identification & care; basic skin disorders identification; and flea/tick evaluation & treatment options. **Prerequisite course required.**

Dog Grooming II: Basic Grooming Techniques (4/29-6/21)

Build on the knowledge you gained in Dog Grooming I as you explore basic grooming skills and techniques. Learn and practice essential skills such as proper bathing/drying; brushing/combing; dematting; ear cleaning; nail trims; dental care; anal gland expression; proper clipper use; and scissor control. **Prerequisite course and completion of Dog Grooming I required.**

Dog Grooming Externship (6/10-8/5)

Participate in an individually scheduled, 50-hour, "hands on" experience related to dog grooming. Observe and practice procedures and skills under direct supervision in a grooming salon. Must be at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license, and reliable transportation. Weekday, weekend, and holiday hours necessary for successful completion. **Prerequisite course, completion of Dog Grooming I, and enrollment in Dog Grooming II required.**

Dog Grooming III: Advanced Grooming Techniques (7/8-8/23)

Continue exploring the career of dog grooming as you learn advanced grooming techniques. Gain skills and knowledge related to pattern setting; blending/shaping; hair dyeing; competitive grooming; business planning; and service add-ons. **Prerequisite course, completion of Dog Grooming I & II, and enrollment in externship required.**

Technical standards apply. Textbooks required. Senior adult and disabled retiree tuition waivers apply. Transcript available.