

## **2026 SkillsUSA Maryland Cosmetology Competition (posted 3/6/26)**

March 6, 2026

Enclosed you will find the SkillsUSA Maryland Cosmetology contest scope, time schedule, student supply list, required thermal cut and style design, and scoring criteria for the 2026 SkillsUSA Maryland State Championship. The 2026 competition takes place at **Carroll County Career & Technical Center located at 1229 Washington Rd, Westminster, MD 21157.**

**Please note** – the Fantasy Style portion of the contest has been updated. Contestants will be required to bring a sketch of the intended style with a brief description/story to explain the chosen style.

Note: No human models - contestants are to bring a new, uncut mannequin for the 90-Degree Haircut/Design.

Contestants are participating in a State Contest and may not speak or be spoken to by teachers, classmates, friends or family. Should this occur, it will be noted on individual scoring sheets, and they will forfeit the competition. We welcome your silent support for the competitors however **we have limited seats for spectators**. The seating area is limited, but a large viewing area is open just outside the competition space. Please remember that observing the competitors is a privilege and we wish to have an environment in which every student will succeed.

Please review this information with your competitors (and spectators) so that they will arrive at the contest site well- prepared.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 443-928-3982 during the day or evening. Otherwise, I'll see you **Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the Carroll County Career & Technical Center**  
Good luck to all!

Brenda Glidden  
Contest Chair

# 2026 Maryland SkillsUSA Cosmetology Competition

## **Contestant Requirements:**

The contestant must be current SkillsUSA Maryland member.

Contestants must be pre-qualified to compete via a SkillsUSA Maryland Regional competition process.

## **Objective:**

Competitors will be expected to duplicate required tasks and skills on mannequins following the proctor's instructions.

## **Preparation for contest:**

- Contestants will receive photos of a Layered Cut and Design to replicate in the contest.
- Contestants will also complete a 90-Degree Cut and Design.
- Contestants will sketch out a design idea with a short explanation of the design for the Fantasy Style

## **Skills to be judged:**

- Complete a 90-Degree Cut and Blow Dry Style on a contestant provided mannequin based on the instruction provided. Mannequins must be new and uncut (supplied by the student).
- Demonstrate the creation of a Fantasy Style on a provided long hair mannequin as described in their design idea sketch.
- Duplicate a Layered Cut and Thermal Style on a provided mannequin
- Demonstrate all necessary safety and sanitation requirements
- Demonstrate the ability to accurately respond to a technical question

## **Dress code:**

Contestant –

- White Skills USA uniform or School uniform
- Black work, or dress shoes (non-skid and completely enclosed, no open-toe or open-heel)

Points will be deducted for improper dress & shoes

**Note:** all personal & school names must be covered.

## Supplies provided:

- Work station & styling chair with electricity for hair dryers
- New mannequin & stand (students may keep mannequin upon completion of contest)
- 24" mannequin (must be returned to contest chair)

## Supplies contestant needs to bring:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| New uncut Mannequin (90-Degree Cut)      | Setting lotion   |
| Blood Spill Kit                          | Holding spray  |
| Combs & brushes                          | Butterfly or duckbill clamps                               |
| Towels                                   | Curling iron(s) (stove or electric), flat irons (optional) |
| Water spray bottle                       | Blow dryer   |
| Cutting shears, thinning shears, & razor | Cutting clips  |
| Shampoo cape                             | Bobby pins, hairpins, rubber bands if needed for styling   |
| Styling cape                             | Sketch with story/description of the Fantasy Style         |
| 2 #2 pencils                             | Clippers, Trimmers   |

## Scoring Rubric:

### Skills to be performed:

- |                                      | Point Weight | Time Allotted                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| • Written Exam                       | 100 pts      | 15 Minutes                     |
| • Long Hair Fantasy Style            | 250 pts      | 60 minutes                     |
| • 90 –Degree Haircut and Design      | 250 pts      | 60 minutes (40 cut & 20 style) |
| • Layered Cut & Thermal Design Style | 250 pts      | 60 minutes                     |
| • Verbal Exam                        | 150 pts      | 2 minutes                      |

**Total 1000 pts**

## Scoring:

- 1000-point scale per contestant.
- Students will receive points according to their skill
- Each skill performed has 10 subcategories showing students what skills are expected during demonstration. The subcategories are found in contest descriptions will be rated as follows.
  - 25 pts – Exceeds requirements for subcategory
  - 15 pts – Executes neatly and meets all requirements for subcategory
  - 10 pts – Executes with some difficulty and meets some of the requirements for the subcategory
  - 5 pts – Not executed neatly, meets minimal requirements for the subcategory
  - 0 pts – Meets no requirements for subcategory
- Judges will individually rank each student by the completed skill performed and apply a point score. Judge's total points will be averaged for a total score by contestant.

## Note: Possible point deductions

- 10 points may be deducted from the total score if stylist is improperly dressed
- 10 points may be deducted from the total score for unsanitary kit, unorganized station set up, and missing necessary tools or supplies, including blood spill kit
- 10 points will be deducted from the total score if the contestant does not provide a resume.

## Attentive Time Schedule\*:

8:00 A.M. -8:15 A.M.	Registration / set up station (sign in, receive number, receive mannequin & stand, and set up station)	
8:15 A.M. -8:20 A.M.	Cosmetology knowledge test orientation	( 5 minutes)
8:20 A.M. -8:40 A.M.	Take Cosmetology knowledge test	(20 minutes)
8:40 A.M. -8:50 A.M.	Fantasy Style Orientation	(10 minutes)
8:50 A.M. -9:50 A.M.	Fantasy Style Skill	(60 minutes)
9:50 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	Judging	(10 minutes)
10:00 A.M. – 10:05 A.M.	90 Degree Haircut Orientation	(5 minutes)
10:05 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.	90 Degree Haircut Skill	(40 minutes)
10:45 A.M. – 10:55 A.M.	Judging of 90-Degree Hair	(10 minutes)
10:55 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.	Blow Dry Style	(20 minutes)
11:15 A.M. – 11:35 P.M.	<b>Lunch Break</b> Continued Judging of Fantasy Style	(20 minutes)
11:35 P.M – 11:40 P.M.	Layered Cut Design orientation	(5 minutes)
11:40 P.M. – 12:40 P.M.	Layered Cut Design & Style	(60 minutes)
12:40 P. M. - 12:50 P.M.	Layered Cut Judging	(10 minutes)
12:50 P.M. - 1:25 P.M.	Verbal presentation	(35 min)
1:25 P.M. - 1:30P.M.	End of contest talk	(5 minutes)
1:15 P.M. – 1:25 P.M.	Clean up	(10 minutes)

*\*Schedule subject to change*

## **Contest Guidelines**

1. After sign in and orientation, contestants, in their required dress code, will take the Skills USA Knowledge test. Contestants will then be escorted to the contest site to receive final instructions.
2. All contestants must keep their working area clean and organized.
3. All contestants must follow sanitation and safety procedures throughout the contest.
4. Professional attitude and communication with judges is expected throughout the contest.
5. Once time is called the contestant must stop working. Touching the hair of the mannequin after time has been called is not permitted.
6. Cell phones must be turned off at all times and out of sight. No Apple watches to be worn.
7. No communication with spectators is allowed at any time during the contest, direct or indirect. Disregard for this guideline will result in forfeiting the contest.
8. For the finished product of the Long Hair Fantasy style hairpieces or extensions are not allowed. A volume base insert (donut bun) is permitted.
9. The sketch for the Fantasy style will be placed with the finished style for judging purposes.
10. All contestants must submit a one-page typed resume to the contest chair (or have submitted electronically). A deduction of 10 points will occur if no resume is submitted.

## Skill Criteria for Cosmetology Competition

### Hair Cut & Blow dry style

- Contestants will be expected to complete on a contestant provided mannequin a 90 -Degree haircut and thermal style.
- **The overall cut length is to be 4 inches.**
- Electric cutting tools are not permitted during this contest.
- Contestants are expected to use **blow dryer and brush only** for this style.
- The blow dry style is to frame the face.
- The blow dry styling is to be performed on the mannequin which contestant has demonstrated the required cut regardless of cut completion.

**For the 90-Degree Haircut and Blow dry style contestants are expected to demonstrate the following: (250 points-40 minutes cut & 20 minutes style) - NO** electric cutting tools are permitted during this contest. Overall length is 4 inches for this contest.

- Drape
- Correct perimeter guidelines (4 inches) & Correct interior guidelines (4 inches)
- Correctly blended
- Proper use of tools
- Blow drying techniques
- Contestant's work area remains neat and orderly, followed all necessary sanitation requirements
- Completed haircut/style design in time allotted
- Contestant followed instructions

### Long Hair Fantasy Style

- Contestant will be expected to create a fantasy style on a 24" provided mannequin
- Sketch
- **Any** styling tool is permitted at this time.
- **Hair ornaments and embellishments are not permitted for this style.**
- **Pieces of hair and/or extensions are not permitted for this style.**
- Volume base inserts (donut bun) **are allowed.**
- No color gel is permitted
- Water soluble products only

**For the long hair fantasy style contestants are expected to demonstrate the following: (250 points - 60 minutes)**

- Drape
- Speed
- Creativeness
- Creative use of tools
- Hair is neatly arranged & shows balance
- Style resembles the provided sketch and/or description/story
- Contestant's work area remains neat and orderly
- Followed all necessary sanitation requirements
- Completed style in time allotted

- Contestant followed instructions

### **Layered Cut & Thermal style**

- Contestants will be expected to complete on a provided mannequin a layered undercut and thermal style replicating the picture provided by the contest chair.
- Contestants may use any type of cutting tool, including electric
- Contestants may use thermal tools such as curling irons, flat irons, etc.
- The thermal styling is to be performed on the mannequin which contestant has demonstrated the required cut regardless of cut completion.
- A picture is included in this packet.
- Contestants will be given a picture copy of the hair cut during the contest.

**For the Layered Cut and blow dry style contestants are expected to demonstrate the following:  
(250 points-60 minutes)**

- Drape
- Correct perimeter guidelines
- Correct interior guidelines
- Correctly blended
- Proper use of tools
- Thermal Styling techniques support intended style shown in picture
- Contestant's work area remains neat and orderly
- Followed all necessary sanitation requirements
- Completed haircut/style design in time allotted
- Contestant followed instructions

### **Verbal Presentation**

- Contestant will be expected to verbally respond to a technical question(s)
- Maximum answer time allotted is 2 minutes

**For the verbal presentation contestants are expected to demonstrate the following:  
(150 points 2 minutes each contestant)**

- Quick response to question
- Accuracy of answer
- Clarity of information
- Demonstrates self-control and self confidence
- Completed answer in time allotted or less
- Contestant followed instructions

**Clean up: contestants are expected to clean up and leave the area as it was upon their arrival**

- Followed all sanitation requirements
- Returned all supplies to proper place
- Disposed of all trash in receptacle
- Sanitized station when done