

Frequently Asked Questions About the Grooming Diploma Program

1. How much does it cost?

If you are coming in as a part-time student, each class is paid for by the credit. There is a fee for in-state students and a higher fee for out of state students. Classes are either 2 or 4 credits each. In addition to the per credit fee, there is also a technology fee related to the number of credits you are taking. Also each semester you enroll, there is a Registration fee paid to UNH Continuing Education. If you complete the program in 2 semesters, this fee is only paid twice. If you spread out your classes over more semesters, you will pay additional registration fees. The only course fee is \$15 each for each grooming class. This is to cover wear and tear on the equipment. The final costs to an individual are, therefore, variable.

The fees change yearly and are usually posted mid July on the Continuing Education website.

If you are enrolled as a UNH student, classes are covered by your tuition. If you are not an Applied Animal Science student, you will be required to pay the \$15 AAS 222 and AAS 233 (Grooming I & II) course fee.

2. How long does the program take?

The program takes as little as 2 semesters (9 months) to several years depending on an individual's time availability and financial resources.

3. Do you offer classes evenings and weekends?

At the present time, we do not have the resources to offer evening and weekend classes.

4. Do I need to provide my own equipment?

The program provides all the equipment you will need in AAS 222 Grooming I. This gives you a chance to "try before you buy" so that when you are ready to buy your own equipment, you know that you need and like. We even provide the grooming smocks! We strongly encourage you to buy professional scissors for AAS 233 Grooming II which we can provide.

5. Does UNH provide financial Aid for this program?

This program does not qualify for financial aid through UNH as a non-matriculated program. You may be able to locate outside sources of aid in vocational or job retraining areas.

6. How does it compare to grooming schools and apprentice programs?

Most grooming schools and apprentice programs take less time and are full time for a period of weeks. This may be desirable to you. You may or may not get more hands-on at a grooming school depending on its length and location.

Usually for these programs, you will need to pay a complete fee up front rather than pay as –you-go by the credit.

Most grooming schools require that you provide your own basic equipment.

The costs of grooming schools are quite variable and you would need to check each individually in order to compare to ours.

Grooming school credits are not transferable to university programs. Our credits may be.

Our program also offers a more comprehensive course content than most Grooming Schools. In our program, you are taught and practice first aid, learn about nutrition, training, behavior genetics and health care of dogs and cats and more. Students will also be involved with management of the shop, making appointments, dealing with customers and using a computer – based management system.

7. Do groomers need to be licensed?

Groomers are not licensed in NH or in other NE states. Grooming shops may be open to inspection in some states and there may be some generic business licenses required.

If pesticide products are used on pets, a groomer will need a state pesticide applicators license.

Because of the lack of regulations, many groomers are self taught. Many consumers are looking for groomers with professional training.

8. Do you do job placement?

We do not do placements, but do have a job board where businesses looking for groomers advertise. UNH also has a way for employers to advertise jobs and TSAS is encouraging those with grooming positions to advertise there.

9. How do I enroll in the classes?

As an external, part-time student, when you are ready to take a class, you enroll and pay through the UNH Continuing Education www.learn.unh.edu . Enrollment for fall begins in August; for Spring, in December; for summer, in April.

10. What about parking on campus?

You can do metered parking at the Visitor's Center at \$1.00 per hour (the machine takes quarters) or you can purchase a commuter permit. You will need proof of enrollment for this. UNH is very strict about parking and has some hefty fines! See <http://www.unh.edu/transportation/parking/index.htm>

11. Do I need any particular qualifications to enroll in the program?

Pet grooming is a very physical job. It requires a lot of stooping, bending and lifting, and moving objects – live and wiggling dogs and cats! While there are many tools and equipment that can help, a successful groomer needs to be physically fit.

A successful groomer also needs to be able to multitask i.e. use clippers, scissors, trimmers while safely and humanely restraining and talking to nervous animals.

All students need to have a high school diploma before enrolling and need to be able to handle college-level academic work.