How to Help Your Students Choose the Right Salon: Part Two

How do you help your students choose the right salon to work in after graduating from nail school? Use this handout to help your students approach the task methodically to make the process a little less difficult.

How do you choose the right salon to work in after graduating from nail school? Approaching it methodically will help to make the process a little less difficult. There are many factors you should consider when selecting a salon in which to work after graduating from nail school. Perhaps the first thing to consider is what type of environment you want to work in: a nails-only salon, a full-service salon, or a day spa.

A nails-only salon environment can be a very good experience because you can watch and shadow experienced nail techs who may have been working there for years. In a nails-only salon, the clients who come in are usually nails-only clients, and you can start building a clientele from that base. Some salon owners offer client specials to introduce a new tech and assist her in building clientele.

Full-service salons are also a good experience because you are usually the only tech on duty and will not only get all the nail clients, but can also work with the hairstylists to share clients. The downside of a full-service salon is that if you are absent for any reason, there is no one to cover for you and take care of your appointments, especially your standing appointments.

Day spas usually have several nail techs on duty and always have a rotation of techs on hand, plus the scheduling manager on duty usually can fill in or find backup.

Here are more questions to consider:

> How does the salon pay? Weekly, bi-weekly, commission, or hourly?
> What is the pay scale?
> Do they pay by check or cash?
> How long has the salon been in operation?
> How long have they been in their current location?
> Are they listed with the Better Business Bureau?
> What is my overall assessment of the establishment?
> Would I feel comfortable working there?
> Would I be excited to work for the establishment?
> Is there room for growth?
> Do I see myself working there in the next five years?
> What type of contract is in place between employees and the salon owner? Keep in mind that many salons will have a clause in their contract that if you leave, you cannot work within a certain radius of the salon. Before you sign any contract ask to have a copy to take home and review before you commit.

See you soon!

— Roy

Royan Williams has been a licensed nail technology educator, nail school operator, and continuing education instructor for over 20 years. His experience as a school operator has helped him understand the needs of nail technicians, especially those of new students breaking into the nail industry. See more at www.chicagonailschools.com. For free help and advice e-mail: royan.williams@att.net

For more information about your career in nails, check out these helpful links:
www.nailsmag.com/career-handbook
www.nailsmag.com/education/nail-school

For more information about prospective employment, log onto:
www.nailsmag.com/article/96231/five-ways-to-impress-a-prospective-employer