

2026 OK
Regional



NAIL CARE



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

PURPOSE

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

First, download and review the General Regulations at updates.skillsusa.org.

ELIGIBILITY

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

Note: Models must register for the National Leadership & Skills Conference as a "Participant."

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

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

- White dress shirt or official white polo, no Logo's on shirt other than SKillsUSA
- 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/nonpattern.

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

These regulations refer to SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Classifications that are pictured and described at skillsusastore.org. If you have questions about competition uniforms, call the SkillsUSA Store at 888-501-2183.

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

Note: Model clothing includes a business appropriate white dress shirt or polo shirt, black dress slacks, and black work or dress shoes (non-skid and completely enclosed, no open-toe or open-heel).

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the regional host school and technical committee:
 - a. Implement Disinfection Station
 - b. Technical guidelines for the specific applications required to be performed
 - c. Plastic bags for disposal of refuse
 - d. Power outlet
2. Supplied by the competitor:
 - a. A model is required and must be an active SkillsUSA student member. Models must register as a “participant” and are not required to take any test(s) or submit a resume.
 - b. White terry towels (no holes or stains allowed)
 - c. Disposable towels for the table
 - d. Water dispenser (optional)
 - e. All items necessary to complete five (5) sculptured acrylic nails.
Note: Dappen dishes must have covers; monomer, polymer, and primer must be from the same manufacturer: two or more of the four basic acrylic colors (pink, white, clear, or natural) must be used to complete two-tone/French manicure sculpted nails
 - f. All items necessary to complete five (5) nails with a tip and light-cured enhancement overlay. Can be hybrid gel/acrylic without the forms. Light-cured enhancement product must be translucent.
Note: Gel polish, temporary or no-light gels may not be used.
 - g. Dark red crème lacquer/polish
 - h. Items allowed for the flat nail art application include:
 - 1). Acrylic paints, polishes/lacquers, colored powders (acrylic and dip), gel polish, rhinestones sizes 20ss and under, glitters and dusts, and adhesives, i.e., gel topcoats/glue
Note: No pre-prepared items can be used; items are limited to those intended for use on nails.
 - 2). A topcoat may be used as a sealer.
 - i. A written description of the nail art theme. Themes are to be typewritten, should include pictures and be contained within a plastic sheet protector. Due at check-in.
 - 1). The photo may include props. Due at check-in.
 - j. Portable kit organizer (to transport all items necessary for the competition)
 - k. All implements and tools should be brought to the competition clean and/or new and ready for use.
 - l. Safety glasses, gloves and masks are optional.
 - m. Manicure table lamp and 6’ multi-outlet power strip (optional)

- n. All competitors must create and submit a one-page single sided resume.

Note: Electric files/drills and airbrush machines are not allowed.

Note: All national competitors must also check for competition-specific updates and/or competitor preparation instructions on the SkillsUSA website at updates.skillsusa.org.

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 which compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor's scores may be removed.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

The competition will include a test assessing all aspects of nail care including safety and sanitation, natural nail and foot care, and artificial nails, and a written description of nail art theme. Competitors are also required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

The competition will include a series of testing situations, including oral presentations and technical applications. The areas that will be evaluated are customer service, safety and sanitation, natural nail care, artificial nails, and nail lacquer and art application. Observations during each segment and evaluation of the finished product will be considered in the scoring. All segments of work must be completed within the specified time during the competition. For example, during the acrylic/tips and light-cured enhancement, no work may start on the nail art or polish application. Time limits include:

120 minutes for acrylic, tips and light-cured enhancement application

90 minutes for polish and flat nail art applications

5 minute set-up/clean-up breaks between performance projects will be given

References

- *Milady Standard Nail Technology Textbook*, Fifth Edition: www.milady.com
- *Salon Fundamentals: Nail Technology*: www.pivot-point.com

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. All competitors must bring a model for the competition.
2. Competitors are not permitted to touch their models before the competition begins or between segments.
3. Conversation between competitor and model is limited. Communication with observers, judges, and other competitors is prohibited during the competition.
4. Disqualification or the assessment of penalty points may occur for the following:
 - a. Any rule not followed, with *no* exceptions
 - b. Leaving competition area before completion of the nail care competition (applies to both competitor and model) without proper escort
 - c. Unauthorized use of a product that is not allowed or that doesn't appear in the above listing
 - d. Any product that appears to have been altered
5. Competitors should come prepared to do the following:
 - a. All five (5) fingers of the model's right hand are to be sculpted with acrylic using forms, no tips, in a two-tone/French-manicure (pink and white) technique. Two or more colors of acrylic may be used.
 - b. All five (5) fingers of the model's left hand are to have nail tips applied and overlaid with a light-cured gel or a light-cured hybrid acrylic/gel. Any type of tip may be used under product.
 - c. Two coats of red polish are to be applied to the model's right hand.
6. Flat nail art is to be applied to all five (5) fingers of the model's left hand.
 - a. The specific theme is to be carried through on all five fingers.
 - b. Diagrams of the art to be created can be used; however, these are limited to the finished product and may not be step-by-step instructions.
 - c. Judging will be on the overall balance of the use of different mediums and the creative use of the mediums to support the theme, as well as the attention to detail.
 - d. A professional attitude and communication are expected throughout the competition.
 - e. Once time is called, the competitor must stop working.
 - f. Cell phones, smart watches, and/or other forms of communication technology are prohibited in the competition area. If models and/or competitors are using any digital communication device (other than when permitted), points will be deducted. See "Prohibited Devices" above for more information.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

NAIL 1.0 — Apply the knowledge and skills needed to perform safety and sanitation in a nail care situation.

- 1.1. Show safety in handling products
 - 1.1.1. Set up table to consist of items needed for the specific competition application in progress (e.g., if sculptured nail is in progress, the tip and wrap and nail art materials should not be visible during this time)
 - 1.1.2. Identify all products and solutions properly with the manufacturer's original packaging and labeling (e.g., cannot be defaced)

- 1.1.3. Ensure that bottles and containers are securely closed after use
- 1.1.4. Demonstrate when and how safety glasses and gloves are used
- 1.2. Perform sanitary practices
 - 1.2.1. Ensure that all implements, and files are brought to the competition cleaned, disinfected or new and are labeled as such
 - 1.2.2. Ensure that any implement or file that becomes contaminated during the competition is disposed of or cleaned and disinfected
- 1.3. Perform safe usage of implements and tools
 - 1.3.1. Verify there are no cuts on surrounding skin
 - 1.3.2. Verify there are no cuticle abrasions
- 1.4. Apply knowledge of sanitation and disinfection, how they are accomplished and how they differ
 - 1.4.1. Define sanitation and disinfection
 - 1.4.2. List and explain proper procedure for sanitation and disinfection
 - 1.4.3. Contrast sanitation and disinfection
 - 1.4.4. Describe importance of proper sanitation
 - 1.4.5. Describe importance of proper disinfection
- 1.5. Show cleanliness and organization of the working environment
 - 1.5.1. Ensure that workspace is clean and organized throughout competition
 - 1.5.2. Verify that only needed items are out on the table
 - 1.5.3. Ensure that required tools and products are accounted for and professionally organized

NAIL 2.0 — Implement skills that are needed for quality customer service in a nail care situation

- 2.1. Model professional behavior and a positive attitude throughout the competition
 - 2.1.1. Listen to directions
 - 2.1.2. Follow all rules
 - 2.1.3. Be punctual

NAIL 3.0 — Apply the knowledge and skills needed to perform artificial nails services in a nail care situation

3.1 Build an acrylic nail

- 5.1.1. Ensure product control; clarity/no bubbles, smile line
- 5.1.2. Verify that the cuticle and nail grove are smooth and thin
- 5.1.3. Identify that the contour, the highest point of nail, is in the center at the natural stress area
- 5.1.4. Ensure that the shape and length is consistent on each finger
- 5.1.5. Identify that the surface finish is smooth, with a high-gloss shine
- 5.2. Demonstrate proper application and blending of a nail tip
 - 5.2.1. Perform tip application (i.e., fit and alignment)
 - 5.2.2. Perform tip blending
 - 5.2.3. Perform product control (e.g., no adhesive seepage)
 - 5.2.4. Perform tool control (i.e., no excessive filing on skin or natural nail)

- 5.3. Demonstrate application of a light-cured nail enhancement
 - 5.3.1. Define a light-cured enhancement
 - 5.3.2. Differentiate light-cured enhancement from other material used to create artificial nails
 - 5.3.3. Demonstrate application of light-cured enhancement (e.g., cover nail completely, no excess gel in cuticle area)
 - 5.3.4. Identify that the contour, the highest point of nail, is in the center at the natural stress area
 - 5.3.5. Ensure that the shape and length is consistent on each finger
 - 5.3.6. Ensure that surface finish is smooth, with a high-gloss shine
- 5.4. Prepare or describe preparation of a natural nail for any type of artificial enhancement
 - 5.4.1. List steps for properly preparing a natural nail for an artificial enhancement
 - 5.4.2. Identify importance of proper preparation
- 5.5. Demonstrate proper finishing techniques for any type of artificial enhancements
 - 5.5.1. List steps to finish an artificial nail
 - 5.5.2. Understand and contrast different file grits

NAIL 4.0 – Implement the knowledge and skills needed to perform nail lacquer and art application in a nail care situation

- 4.1. Show proper application of nail lacquer, including any necessary cleanup
 - 4.1.1. Ensure neatness, coverage, evenness and cuticle involvement
- 4.2. Show proper application of flat nail art
 - 4.2.1 Implement creativity, theme, follow-through of theme, artist expression, and color coordination
 - 4.3.1 Perform at the proper level of difficulty and complexity of design
 - 4.4.1 Ensure precision, neatness and clarity of lines
- 4.3 Describe the theme you intend to create with nail art in one to two written paragraphs (grammar, creativity and language will be evaluated)

NAIL 5.0 – SkillsUSA Framework

The SkillsUSA Framework is used to pinpoint the Essential Elements found in Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. Students will be expected to display or explain how they used some of these Essential Elements. For more, visit:

www.skillsusa.org/who-we-are/skillsusa-framework/.

COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ACADEMIC SKILLS

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this competition.

Math Skills

- Solve practical problems involving percentages.
- Solve problems using proportions, formulas and functions.
- Use basic math skills for the purposes of sales and marketing (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages).
- Use basic math skills for the purposes of bookkeeping (addition, subtraction).

Science Skills

- Use knowledge of patterns of cellular organization (cells, tissues, organs, systems).
- Classify living organisms as it applies to infection control.
- Describe and recognize elements, compounds, mixtures, acids, bases and salts.
- Describe and recognize solids, liquids and gases.
- Describe characteristics of types of matter based on physical and chemical properties.
- Use knowledge of physical properties (shape, density, solubility, odor, melting point, boiling point, color).
- Describe and demonstrate simple compounds (formulas and the nature of bonding).
- Predict chemical changes to matter (types of reactions, reactants and products; and balanced equations). Use knowledge of heat, light and sound energy.

Language Arts Skills

- Demonstrate use of such verbal communication skills as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice.
- Demonstrate use of such nonverbal communication skills as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of informational texts.
- Understand the source, viewpoint and purpose of texts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate reference materials.
- Use print, electronic databases and online resources to access information in books and articles.
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing.

CONNECTIONS TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Science Standards

- Understands the structure and properties of matter
- Understands the sources and properties of energy
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

Language Arts Standards

- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process

elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language and genre to create, critique and discuss print and nonprint texts.

Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

Source: *IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts*. To view the standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.