

# Rockford Register Star

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KATY MULL | ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Kris Martindale of Rockford, cosmetology student at Tricoci University of Beauty Culture in Rockford, practices cutting hair Wednesday at the school. Martindale is one of a crop of nontraditional students enrolling in cosmetology schools.

## Surge in beauty school students

By Melissa Westphal  
ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

ROCKFORD — Kris Martindale has always been fascinated with cosmetology, but it took her a few years and three kids to start pursuing her dream.

Martindale, 38, will graduate in April from the Tricoci University of Beauty Culture in Rockford, one of six campuses founded by industry leader Mario Tricoci.

She's part of a crop of nontraditional students — some re-entering the work force later in life and others who have lost their job — enrolling in cosmetology schools. It's led to a surge across the country.

The beauty business has taken a hit like any other industry during the recession, but there's "never-ending turnover" providing opportunities for jobs, said Gordon Miller, executive director of the National Cosmetology Association.

"Maybe some of the weaker businesses will fall

### How to enroll in a cosmetology class

Tricoci University of Beauty Culture, 5485 E. State St., has a few spots left for its next cosmetology class that starts Sept. 15 and the aesthetics class that starts April 27.

The school also is starting its first part-time cosmetology class on Jan. 25. Call 815-226-9848 or visit [tricociuniversity.com](http://tricociuniversity.com) for more information.

There's a waiting list for the next cosmetology class that starts Sept. 14 at Regency Beauty Institute, 657 Highgrove Place, but campus manager Teresa Wennmacher said she's

by the wayside, but those salons and spas that have upped their game and put a better focus on their clients are actually seeing increases in business," she said.

constantly giving tours to prospective students who can be added to the waiting list in case of a cancellation or who can sign up for the next class.

Call 815-209-2423 or visit [regencybeauty.com](http://regencybeauty.com).

Both of the schools also offer discounted salon and spa services that help students with their training.

Other schools in the area:

Educators of Beauty, 128 S. Fifth St., Rockford; 815-969-7030 or [educatorsofbeauty.com](http://educatorsofbeauty.com).

Midwest Hair Academy, 6337 N. Second St. Loves Park, 815-877-3228.

Jobs for barbers, cosmetologists and other personal appearance workers are projected to grow slightly faster than the average for all occupations, about 14 percent

from 2006 to 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Laura Pierce, general manager of the Rockford Tricoci campus, said the school is seeing more interest from nontraditional students, whereas the school was seeing more students right out of high school when it first opened in 2005.

Diane Ruff, Tricoci's admissions coordinator in Rockford, said the school is adding two cosmetology sessions next year and starting its first part-time cosmetology session on Jan. 25 to accommodate need.

There's a waiting list for the next class starting Sept. 14 at the Rockford Regency Beauty Institute, campus manager Teresa Wennmacher said. Regency is seeing the same increased interest, especially from nontraditional students.

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