

\$25 Massage? \$10 Manicure? Local Schools Offer Deals

POSTED: 7:30 am PDT April 28, 2009

UPDATED: 8:00 am PDT April 28, 2009

PORTLAND, Ore. -- The economic crisis has forced many people to cut luxuries such as a massage, a new hair color or a manicure out of their budget. But with a little bit of bargain hunting at vocational schools, indulgers can be back on the massage table in no time.

At **Clackamas Community College**, the automotive department looks like any other body shop, but there's one big difference for the mechanics working there -- they don't get paid. **Dave Bradley**, the head of the department, said his students work on cars brought in by the public.

"They're graded on the work they do and they're supervised by the instructor so the quality is industry standard," Bradley said.

The only thing customers will pay for is the parts necessary to fix the vehicle. There is no charge for labor and the auto department performs just about any task -- including fixing up a Kia that had been involved in a crash with a semitrailer.

"We replaced the entire front structure, the front sheet metal, rear floor plan, rear structure," Bradley said.

Bradley's school isn't the only one offering a good deal. Since 1994, Mayme Kidd has been a customer at the beauty shop on the campus of Mt. Hood Community College, where students will color your hair for as little as \$15.

Customers may also purchase manicures for \$10 and eyebrow waxes for \$5. Kidd said it helps her pocketbook -- and the students.

"You've got to start somewhere and if you don't practice, it's kind of tough," she said.

On the other side of campus at Mt. Hood, students learning to be dental hygienists will see 800 patients every year. They perform the work for a fraction of what it would cost otherwise.

"We try to keep our prices low so that we can serve the needs of patients who aren't able to get care elsewhere," said Teri Tong, of Mt. Hood Community College. For something a little more relaxing, the second-oldest massage school in the country may be just what a bargain hunter needs.

Alli Lurie's students at East West College offer massages to the general public for as little as \$25.

"It's really important that when you go out into a real-world setting that you are ready to deal with any situation that's presented to you," Lurie said.

Most of the programs fill up fast and many close for the summer, but students and teachers stand by their work -- even if it sounds too good to be true.

"We're equipped to do it all," Bradley said. "We have the latest in technology and some of the best students in the area."

So what's the catch? Some work will take longer than if a professional was performing it. Automotive students need two to three times longer than a regular body shop to fix a car.

[Cut Costs While Indulging On Things You Love](#)

Related links

For Car Repairs: [Clackamas Community College's Automotive Department](#).

For Dental Hygiene: [Mt. Hood Community College school of Dental Hygiene](#).

For Hair/Nail Salon: Mt. Hood Community College school of Hair Design

Massage: East West College: Professional School of Massage and Spa Training

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