

Makeup Artists Make More Than You Might Think

Summary: Makeup artists make the most money in big cities like Los Angeles and New York City, but with the proper skills and perseverance, a makeup artist can make their success wherever.



By now most people have heard of, if not seen, the TV series Face Off. The show is about a group of prosthetic makeup artists competing against each other to be the best artist. While you may not be directly interested in this style of makeup artistry, there is a good chance it has got your creative juices flowing.

- See [Build Your Creativity by Watching These TV Shows](#) for more information.

The career outlook for those in the theatrical or performance areas of makeup is fairly strong. While the average hourly wage is \$29.25, you should expect to start out making closer to minimum wage until you establish a reputation as one of the best. The top 90 percent in the industry are making \$55.30 an hour, translating into \$115,030 a year. Success as a makeup artist relies strongly on location. California, New York, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are the primary employers of makeup artists.

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You must have a strong grasp of history, since a lot of makeup artist's work deals with period costumes of a specific time, decade, or era. Having a minimum of an associate's degree or other vocational school degree is required plus on-the-job training. You will also be required to obtain a cosmetology license.

The projected growth of the industry is low but still positive. Much of the success of makeup artists relies on their own effort and skills at making a name in the industry. Networking is crucial in order to be known by those making the productions that pay the highest, such as films and plays.

See the following articles for more information:

- [The Role of Networking in the Modern Job Search](#)
- [Accelerate Your Job Search with Networking](#)

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