

Florist

Design with flowers for weddings, funerals and ordinary Tuesdays. Low pay, real craft, early mornings.

TYPICAL PAY

\$37,360

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$29k to \$51k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Retail flower shops, wedding and event studios, supermarkets, who...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Take art and business classes. Get a weekend or holiday job in a flower shop or a garden center now.
- 2 Work in a shop** 6 months to 2 years
Processing flowers, cooler work, deliveries, then simple bouquets. This is the real training and most florists never do anything else.
- 3 Take a design course, if you want one** A few weeks to a year
A community college or vocational certificate in floral design, usually a few months, teaching mechanics, color, shape and pricing.
- 4 Build a portfolio**
Photograph everything you make. In this field the pictures get you hired, and they get you weddings.
- 5 Certify or specialize** Optional
Earn the Certified Floral Designer credential from the American Institute of Floral Designers, or move into wedding and event work on your own.

Pros and cons

- + You make something beautiful every day and hand it to someone
- + No tuition, no debt and no license to wait for
- + Easy to run as your own small business
- Pay is low, and the top of the field is still modest
- The federal outlook expects the number of jobs to fall
- Cold, wet, standing work with thorns and heavy buckets

Good to know

Most cut flowers in the country are imported

The majority of flowers sold in American shops are grown in South America, mostly Colombia and Ecuador, and flown into Miami before being trucked across the country. Your roses have usually traveled fu...

Two days carry the year

Valentine's Day and Mother's Day dominate the retail floral calendar. Shops hire extra hands for both, and a single bad Valentine's Day can decide whether a small shop survives the year.

Optional boosts

Wedding and event design. Sympathy and funeral work. Growing your own. Social media.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Floral Designers (27-1023.00)

American Institute of Floral Designers

Society of American Florists

Apprenticeship.gov, the federal apprenticeship job finder

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/florist>



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