

North Bennet Street School
2024 Media Fact Sheet

WHAT: North Bennet Street School (NBSS) trains students for careers in traditional trades that use hand skills in concert with evolving technology, to preserve craft traditions and promote a greater appreciation of craftsmanship. From its beginnings as a settlement house offering vocational training, NBSS has become a unique, professional craft school, recognized both nationally and internationally for its excellence as a learning institution. Since 1881, America's first trade school remains committed to teaching the whole person while fostering individual growth, attention to detail, and technical expertise. The private vocational school's programs and experienced faculty draw students worldwide who graduate with the skills, tools, and practical understanding needed to build self-sufficient, meaningful, and productive lives.

WHY: The United States is facing a skilled labor shortage. Older generations of craftspeople are retiring out of the workforce while demand for authentic, handmade products and services remains strong. Pauline Agassiz Shaw, an American philanthropist and social reformer, founded NBSS to enable immigrants to develop productive lives in their new homeland. Today, the school continues to bridge the gap between opportunity and demand by training the next generation of traditional tradespeople using time-honored methods and skills. In our fast-paced and highly digitized society, the appeal of making things by hand remains universal. The process is intensive, intimate, and thoughtful, bringing personal fulfillment and pride, while also creating rewarding, life-long careers.

HOW: NBSS offers a supportive and stimulating learning environment for those who share a passion for craft. Faculty members instill in students a sense of care in their work and a commitment to excellence. The accredited postsecondary career school serves a close-knit community of 150 students each year, offering 130+ [community education classes](#) and nine [career training programs](#):

- **Bookbinding:** A two-year program during which students learn to make, restore, and preserve books, archival materials, and other printed matter.
- **Carpentry:** A team-focused, year-long intensive that teaches students to construct and renovate residential buildings using both machines and hand tools to meet their clients' needs.
- **Cabinet & Furniture Making:** A two-year program that teaches fine craftsmanship through projects incorporating 18th- and 19th-century furniture examples as a foundation.
- **Jewelry Making & Repair:** A two-year comprehensive bench program that prepares students to create and repair jewelry of lasting value using traditional techniques and modern technology.
- **Locksmithing & Security Technology:** A one-year course in which students learn to service all types of residential and commercial door-locking devices, including electronic access control systems.
- **Piano Technology:** Two individual, year-long programs – Basic Piano Technology and Advanced Piano Technology – teach students to tune, regulate, restore, and rebuild beautiful musical instruments.
- **Preservation Carpentry:** A two-year program which provides a foundation in pre-20th century New England home construction, including stabilizing endangered buildings and recreating historic details.
- **Violin Making & Repair:** A three-year program which follows the highest standards of the craft and teaches repair, restoration, and set-up of stringed instruments. Students make six violins and a viola.

WHO: NBSS is made up of self-motivated, passionate, and determined students whose hearts, minds, and hand skills fit the mission of the School. Our community includes people of all backgrounds—varied in ethnicity, age, gender, education, and veteran status—who train with us and positively impact their chosen fields. An equally diverse and dedicated team of faculty, visiting instructors, and advisors are leaders in their fields. Our close-knit, supportive community continues beyond graduation, with a network of over 3,500 alumni around the globe.

WHERE: The School's spacious, 64,000-square-foot facility is located in Boston's historic North End neighborhood, the community in which it was originally founded over 140 years ago.

CONNECT: Find North Bennet Street School on social media: Facebook ([@NBSSBoston](#)); Instagram ([@nbssboston](#)); Twitter ([@NBSSboston](#)); LinkedIn ([North Bennet Street School](#)); YouTube ([North Bennet Street School](#)). For more information, visit: www.nbss.edu.

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