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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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Automotive Technician

Anyone whose car or truck has broken down knows the importance of a good automotive technician. The ability to diagnose the source of a problem quickly and accurately requires good reasoning ability and a thorough knowledge of automobiles.

The work of automotive service technicians has evolved from mechanical repair to a high technology job. Technicians must have an increasingly broad base of knowledge about how vehicles' complex components work and

interact, as well as the ability to work with electronic diagnostic equipment.

Automotive service technicians use their high-tech skills to inspect, maintain, and repair automobiles that run on gasoline, ethanol and other alternative fuels.

During routine service inspections, technicians test and lubricate engines and other major components. In some cases, the technician may repair or replace worn parts before they cause

breakdowns that could damage critical components of the vehicle.

Service technicians use a variety of tools in their work—power tools, machine tools, welding and flamecutting equipment and jacks to lift cars and engines. They also use hand tools to work on small parts.

Source:
The Occupational Outlook Handbook

Job Outlook

Job opportunities in this occupation are expected to be very good for persons who complete automotive training programs.

Persons with good problem-solving abilities, and whose training includes basic electronics and computer courses, should have the best opportunities.

Employment of automotive service technicians is expected to increase through the year 2014. The demand for technicians will grow as the number of vehicles in operation increases.

Money Matters

Career: Automotive Technician

Job Description: Performs maintenance and repairs on automobiles. Familiar with a variety of the field's concepts, practices, and procedures. Relies on experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals. Performs a variety of complicated tasks. May direct the work of others. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.

Salary: \$22,526 - \$57,355 annually

For more information on how to start your career in Automotive Technology, please contact:

Career Counselor Vickie Miller
 (941) 751-7900 ext. 2016
 millerv@manateeschools.net

Education Needed

Automotive technology is rapidly increasing in sophistication, and most training authorities strongly recommend that persons seeking automotive service technician and mechanic jobs complete a formal training program in high school, or in a postsecondary technical school or community college.

Courses in automotive repair, electronics, physics, chemistry, English, computers, and mathematics provide a good educational background for a career as a service technician.

The ASE certification is a nationally recognized standard for programs that train automobile service technicians.

Technicians need good reading, mathematics, and computer skills to study technical manuals and to keep ahead of new technology and learn new service and repair procedures and specifications.

Most employers regard the successful completion of a vocational training program in automotive service technology as the best preparation for trainee positions.



It's a Matter of Perspective

"There are 60,000 Automotive Technician positions open each year. The job industry is extremely strong right now. We get at least two to three calls each day from employers looking to hire our students. Every student that has completed this program in the last twelve years has gotten a job at a dealership or independent shop. The main quality employers are looking for is a strong work ethic. Here at MTI, we dwell heavily on that."
 Cecil Trumbo

"I got into the automotive program because I like to work with my hands and I like to help people. I knew this would be a good career to be able to do that. After completing the program, I want to get into the automotive industry. I am also considering owning my own shop one day. The most important skill I have learned in the program is electrical work. You can't fix a lawnmower today without knowing the electrical basics!"
 Henrique Romero

Teacher • Student

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