

Automotive Technology

Contact Info.

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Casper College

Trades and Technology • Fact Sheet

About our program

The automotive technology program provides quality training relevant to current trends in automotive repair technology. The program enhances a student's employment potential and opportunities; provides knowledge and skills relevant to current trends in automotive repair; provides a solid foundation for continuing education in related fields; and provides a flexible, career-oriented path of training and education.

Housed in the spacious shop facility of the Neil and Doris McMurry Career Studies Center, the automotive technology program is one of 30 career programs at Casper College designed to prepare students for the work force. Students can earn a one-year certificate or a two-year associate of applied science degree, which includes general education coursework with automotive, machine tool and welding electives. We maintain high quality, up-to-date diagnostic equipment and training aids.



Our cooperative work experience course encourages students to work in the local industry while earning college credits and a pay check. Preparing a student for the workforce includes combining excellent automotive skills with superior work ethics. Job opportunities in the field include dealer apprenticeship programs, independent automotive repair shops, parts supply stores, and

Points of Pride

- Additional opportunities to advance into higher education
- All tools supplied
- Auto club activities
- Instructors are ASE master technicians with 20+ years experience in the industry
- Large spacious shop
- Lots of opportunity for hands-on experience
- Majority of automotive classes 65-80+ percent hands-on
- Newest diagnostic tools available
- Partnerships with businesses in automotive service industry, allowing students learning opportunities at work as well as in the classroom
- Student opportunities to perform diagnostics/repairs on personal vehicles
- Students engaged in special projects (most recently a tough truck build-up)
- Two-person teams for lab work

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other industry related activities – all of which can lead to a lifelong career in the field.

National statistics show that the automotive industry remains a strong career option and that there is an increasing demand for better entry-level ability. Changes over the past decade dictate that students must know more about electronics, computerized management systems, fuel injection, and front-wheel drive/all-wheel drive systems. Today's successful automotive technicians are very highly skilled and educated individuals.

Pop the hood on any late-model car today and it's easy to see that today's automotive systems have become increasingly complex. To become a

successful automotive technician, you need to not only learn about cars but also receive comprehensive training on electronics, computers, specialized tools and software programs. It's the only way to stay on top of the industry's continuing technological advances.

Understanding technology is vital. But just as important to your success is maintaining a professional image and gaining the vital people skills that are so prized by employers. Most successful people start with their dreams, set goals, and then commit to their future. Obtaining an AAS degree is a step towards that goal.



Employment

Job opportunities in this occupation are expected to be very good for persons who complete automotive training programs in community colleges, as employers report difficulty in finding workers with the right skills. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there will be 35,000 automotive technician positions to fill each year through the end of the decade.

Also, according to industry statistics, the shortage of qualified technicians has resulted in higher starting salaries for people entering the automotive aftermarket. Median hourly earnings of automotive service technicians and mechanics, including commission, were \$16.24 in May 2006. The highest 10 percent earned more than \$27.22 per hour.

Curriculum: Automotive Technology

Major Requirements:

- o Engine System Fundamentals
- o Manual Power Train Fundamentals
- o Automotive Electrical
- o Suspension and Steering
- o Cooperative Work Experience
- o Intro to Writing for the Trades
- o Brakes
- o Heating and Air Conditioning
or
- o Advanced Engine Rebuilding
- o Advanced Automotive Electrical
- o Computerized Fuel Systems
- o Cooperative Work Experience