

JOB DESCRIPTION

Automotive service technicians and mechanics inspect, maintain, and repair cars and trucks. They:

- Identify problems using computerized diagnostic tools
- Use charts, technical manuals, and experience to plan work procedures
- Test parts and systems for proper functioning
- Follow checklists to ensure that critical parts are examined
- Perform basic care and maintenance including changing oil, checking fluid levels, and rotating tires
- Repair or replace broken/worn parts, such as brake pads, wheel bearings, and sensors
- Perform repairs to manufacturer and customer requests
- Discuss types of repairs needed with the client
- Understand electronic systems

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Although Ohio does not require professional licenses for auto mechanics, individuals may enroll in an automotive technology program to be competitive in the field. Completing programs to become certified may allow individuals to achieve higher salaries than those without formal training.

Certificate programs focus on career-specific training and allow for a student to enter the workforce more quickly. Associate degree programs also include general education courses as well as career-specific coursework. They take about two years to complete.

Many auto mechanics get a certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence; some employers require it prior to hiring.

PAY

\$49,670 per year (\$23.88/hour) as of May 2024
If working at a dealership or for the manufacturer, a mechanic may earn a commission instead of a salary. This is called a “flat rate” structure where an employee is paid based on the work completed. It’s pretty common for mechanics who work hourly to work overtime.

JOB OUTLOOK

3% (Little or no change) 2023-2033

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- **Customer-service skills** to discuss automotive problems and repair options with customers and develop relationships for repeat business.
- **Attention to detail** including an awareness of small details when inspecting or repairing vehicle systems, because mechanical and electronic malfunctions are often due to misalignments or easy-to-miss causes.
- **Dexterity** to perform tasks requiring steady hands and good hand-eye coordination, such as assembling or attaching components and subassemblies.
- **Mechanical skills** including a familiarity with engine components/systems and knowledge of how they interact with each other.
- **Organizational skills** to keep workspaces clean and organized in order to maintain safety and ensure accountability of parts.
- **Physical strength** to lift and maneuver heavy parts such as engines and body panels.
- **Troubleshooting skills** to use diagnostic equipment on engine systems and components in order to identify and fix problems in increasingly complicated mechanical and electronic systems.

CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Western Campus, Parma)

General Automotive Technology Programs

- Associate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology (2-year program)
- Automotive Technology Certificate (1-year program)
- Automotive Maintenance and General Service, Short-Term Certificate (12 credit-hour program)

www.tri-c.edu/programs/automotive-technology/index.html

CERTIFICATE & DEGREE PROGRAMS (*continued*)

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (*continued*)

Ford ASSET Program

A paid internship allowing students to earn while learning. Students alternate for eight weeks in the classroom and eight weeks with their sponsoring Ford or Lincoln Dealer over a two-year period, earning an Associate Degree and valuable dealer experience.

www.tri-c.edu/programs/automotive-technology/ford-asset.html

GM ASEP Program*

Provides specialized automotive service training, academic coursework, and paid internship experience at a GM Dealership or ACDelco Professional Service Center.

www.tri-c.edu/programs/automotive-technology/gm-asep.html

**This program is also offered in partnership with Stark State College in Canton.*

MATRIX TRADE INSTITUTE (*Beachwood*)

Certificate Programs (20 weeks/600 hours):

- Automotive Maintenance, Light Repair and Efficiency
- Auto Body Collision Repair & Refinish Program

www.matrixtradeinstitute.com/

OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE (*Cleveland*)

Offering **Diploma or Associate Degree in Applied Science programs** in these concentrations:

- Complete Automotive Technology
- Rod & Custom Restoration Technology
- Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Motorcycle & Powersports Technology
- High Performance & Racing Technology
- Welding & Fabrication Technology

Programs range from 48 to 72 weeks depending on specialty.

www.ohiotech.edu/programs

POLARIS CAREER CENTER (*Middleburg Hts.*)

A 600-hour (40-week) **Automotive Service Technician program**. Students become certified in:

- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Entry Level
- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) G1 (Auto Maintenance & Light Repair, taken at a testing center)
- Section 609 MACS (Mobile Air Climate Systems)
- OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Automotive)

www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/automotive-service-technician

STARK STATE COLLEGE (*Canton*)

Programs include:

- **Automotive Technology Associate Degree** (two-year program)
- **A comprehensive Automotive Technology Certificate**
- **One-year Automotive Certificate**

Certificate programs contain the core automotive courses to allow students to enter the workforce or directly apply to the Automotive Technology Associate Degree program.

Stark State also has partnership programs with GM, Honda, and Toyota.

www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/automotive/

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO (*Lima*)

UNOH College of Applied Technologies has a variety of **Diploma, Associate and Bachelor's Degree programs in automotive technology** including high performance motorsports. Housing is available.

www.unoh.edu/academics/college-of-applied-technologies/automotive-technology.html

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ASE, National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence provides testing for a nationally recognized credential.

www.ase.com/