

Automotive Technology

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Why Automotive Technology?

If you prefer hands-on instruction to sitting in a classroom and you're fascinated by anything with an engine, Automotive Technology may be the right career path for you.

Our Automotive Technology department prepares future certified technicians for the challenges of the automotive industry. Students receive training in our state-of-the-art facility in eight areas of automotive service: engine repair, engine performance,

electrical and electronic systems, manual drive train and axles, automatic transmission/transaxle, suspension and steering systems, brakes, and heating and air conditioning.

97% of our Automotive Technology graduates over the last eight years have gone on to careers in the field. The specialized training you'll receive will prepare you to become an ASE certified technician, a credential that can provide greater earning potential through demonstrating your expertise in the field.

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PIEDMONT
Technical College

Your goals. Our mission.

Automotive Technology

What will I do on the job?

As an automotive technician, you'll be skilled in a craft that's in high demand. You could find work with fleet owners like the South Carolina Department of Transportation, with car dealerships, with independent garages and service centers, with retailers, and more.

Your duties and responsibilities will vary depending on which employer you choose, but your education can be applied to a wide variety of automotive trades. Entry level jobs you'll be qualified for include: automotive dealer technician; service shop technician; used car dealer technician; auto parts store technician; parts assistant; and service manager. Specialized technicians could focus on engine repair, manual drive train and axle, brake, heating and air conditioning, automatic transmission/transaxle, and more.

Job advancement comes with experience, further training and national certification tests.

What skills will I use on the job?

Depending on your career path, some of your responsibilities could require you to:

- Repair, service and adjust electrical or mechanical parts of gasoline-powered vehicles
- Perform preventive maintenance, troubleshoot/diagnose, and estimate costs related to repairs
- Repair or replace defective parts and/or rebuild assemblies
- Conduct tests to make sure the repairs have corrected the problem and were properly made
- Repairing engines, electrical systems, carburetors, brakes, transmissions, air conditioning systems, alignment of suspension systems, wheels, axles and steering mechanisms
- Think critically and logically to assess and solve automotive repair problems

How much can I earn?

S.C. Earnings Range: \$17,600-\$51,400

S.C. Average: \$30,000

* Based on employment statistics from South Carolina Wage Information and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Visit our Web site for more information.

Who will hire me?

Opportunities for Automotive Technology graduates are good, and most people employed in the automotive service industry can expect steady work, even through downturns in the economy.

The employment rate for automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to increase 15% in S.C. between 2006 and 2016. Opportunities in the automotive industry should be plentiful in vehicle maintenance and repair occupations, especially for employees with formal automotive service technician training.

Recent graduates have found jobs with Professional Automotive, Greenwood County School District 50, Ballentine Ford, Firestone, Gary Russ Chevrolet, Newberry County Career Center, SCDOT, Quality Chrysler & Dodge and many more.

The Automotive Technology program offers an associate degree and two certificates. Completion of each certificate counts toward the associate degree. The Automotive Fundamentals Certificate is a prerequisite for the Advance Automotive Certificate.

Associate Degree:

- Associate in Industrial Technology, Major in Automotive Technology

Certificates:

- Automotive Fundamentals Certificate
- Advanced Automotive Certificate

NOTE: New students must obtain all tools on the list of required tools. Visit www.ptc.edu/automotive for the tool list. Educational discounts are available from participating vendors.

For more information about Automotive Technology, including course requirements, salary ranges and more, visit our website.

