Auto Body Technician

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

Learn to repair and replace damaged motor vehicle structures, body parts, interior and exterior finishes.

If you're creative and like being hands-on while performing precise work, you'll enjoy working in the auto body trade. In Alberta, auto body journeypersons may specialize as Auto Body Preppers, Repairers, Refinishers or Technicians.

- Auto Body Preppers: you'll restore anti-corrosion treatments, substrate identification, surface preparation, undercoat product mixing and application.
- Auto Body Refinishers: you'll do damage appraisals, surface preparation, minor damage repairs, masking, colour matching and top coating. Refinishers may also restore anti-corrosion treatments, substrate identification, product mixing and application.
- Auto Body Repairers: you'll do damage appraisals, frame and unibody structural repairs, body sheet metal work, plastic repairs, component replacement and alignment.
- Auto Body Technicians: you'll do all tasks in the auto body trade and may specialize in damage appraisals, frame straightening, surface preparation, sheet metal work and refinishing.

To work in this trade, certification is required. This means that you must either be a registered apprentice working under the guidance of a certified journeyperson or be a certified journeyperson yourself.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Auto Body Technicians are skilled tradespeople who are motivated, driven to provide good customer service and can find unique solutions to problems. This line of work is most fulfilling for those who enjoy creative work, working with their hands and are detail-oriented.

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- be a creative problem solver
- be patient and detail-oriented
- have strength and stamina to handle heavy tools and parts
- have manual dexterity, mechanical aptitude and good colour vision
- be willing to keep learning as manufacturers make changes in plastics, electronics, metals, supplemental restraints and paints
- be committed to safe work habits.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and apprenticeship education periods, you'll be awarded an educational credential in addition to journeyperson status by Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Education credential earned by specialization:

- Auto Body Technician: Diploma
- Auto Body Prepper: Certificate of Achievement
- Auto Body Refinisher: Certificate
- Auto Body Repairer: Certificate

Auto Body Technicians and Refinishers are Red Seal Endorsed trades – a recognizable standard allowing tradespeople to work across Canada.

Auto Body Prepper and Auto Body Repairer are not a Red Seal Endorsed trade.

Admission requirements

To enter an apprenticeship, you must have the educational qualifications required or recommended education for the trade to which you apply.

Entrance requirements are monitored and set by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Minimum requirements

Successful completion of the following courses:

- English 10-2
- Math 10-3
- Science 10

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests.

OR

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training entrance exam.

Recommended requirements

Apprentices with an Alberta High School Diploma that includes the following courses:

- English 30-2
- Math 30-3
- Physics 20 OR Chemistry 20 OR Science 20
- Related career and technology studies (CTS) courses

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

Auto Body Technician

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	6	$942	$338	$1,280
2	6	$942	$338	$1,280
3	7	$1,099	$347.75	$1,446.75
4	7	$1,099	$347.75	$1,446.75
			Total cost:	**$5,453.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Auto Body Prepper

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	6	$942	$338	$1,280

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
			Total cost:	**$1,280**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Auto Body Refinisher

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	6	$942	$338	$1,280
2	6	$942	$338	$1,280
			Total cost:	**$2,560**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Auto Body Repairer

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	6	$942	$338	$1,280
3	7	$1,099	$347.75	$1,446.75
4	7	$1,099	$347.75	$1,446.75
			Total cost:	**$4,173.50**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Books and Supplies

This is a bring-your-own-device program with standard computer hardware and software requirements. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.

Books or modules, along with other items for classes, are approximately $600 per period.

We recommend you don't purchase books or modules ahead of time as they might be outdated by the time you attend classes, and they cannot be returned to the Bookstore.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required for the program, which may be an additional cost to apprentices.