Automotive Service Technician

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION

Overview

Learn to perform preventative maintenance, diagnose faulty operations and repair automotive vehicles and light trucks.

If you like problem-solving, performing precise work and working in a constantly evolving environment with independence, you'll enjoy the automotive service trade.

While on the job, you'll perform some of the following duties:

- adjust, test and repair engines, steering and braking systems, drive trains, vehicle suspensions, electrical systems and air-conditioning systems
- complete wheel alignments
- repair, rebuild and service specific parts
- process work orders for customer repairs
- examine vehicles to find the cause of faulty operations
- test equipment and refer to the manufacturers' specifications
- take vehicles for test drives
- perform scheduled maintenance services like oil changes, lubrications and tune-ups
- advise customers on work, general vehicle conditions and future repair requirements.

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

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- have a mechanical aptitude and an interest in the field
- enjoy troubleshooting and diagnostics
- have good customer service and communication skills
- be detail-oriented with a desire to do precise work
- have good hearing, eyesight and manual dexterity
- be willing to stay up to date with changing technology
- have working knowledge of electricity and computers
- be committed to safe work habits.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and technical training periods, you'll be awarded an advanced diploma in addition to journeyperson status by Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Automotive service technicians is a Red Seal Endorsed trade – a recognizable standard that allows tradespeople to work across Canada.

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

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

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

These estimates are also applicable to apprentices in the GM Automotive Service and Ford Automotive Student Service Educational programs.

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	9	$1,413	$367.25	$1,780.25
2	9	$1,413	$367.25	$1,780.25
3	9	$1,413	$367.25	$1,780.25
4	9	$1,413	$367.25	$1,780.25
			Total cost:	**$7,121**

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 hardware and software requirements.Mac and iOS devices are not recommended for this program. See the specific requirements on the computers and laptops page.

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

It's recommended 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.