



# 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.

As an automotive service technician, you will adjust, test and repair engines, steering systems, braking systems, drive trains, vehicle suspensions, electrical systems and air-conditioning systems as well as complete wheel alignments. If you work in a larger shop, you may also specialize in repairing, rebuilding and servicing specific parts. If you work in a smaller shop, you may work on a wide variety of repair projects.

As an automotive service technician, you'll take in work orders and examine a vehicle to find the cause of faulty operations. You'll use testing equipment, take the vehicles for a test drive and refer to the manufacturers' specifications before dismantling faulty assemblies, repairing or replacing worn or damaged parts before reassembling, adjusting and testing the repaired mechanism.

You may also perform scheduled maintenance services like oil changes, lubrications and tune-ups. Some Automotive Service Technicians also advise customers on the work they have performed, 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 journeyman or you must be a certified journeyman yourself.

## Traits, skills and aptitudes

To thrive in this career, it is important to have the following traits:

- strong customer service and communication skills
- detail-oriented with a desire to do precise work
- good hearing, eyesight, and manual dexterity
- mechanical aptitude and interest in the field
- passion to stay up-to-date with changing technology
- working knowledge of electricity and computers
- a commitment to safe work habits.

## Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and apprenticeship education periods, graduates will be awarded an advanced diploma in addition to journeyman 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) 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

## Ford Automotive Student Service Educational Training and GM Automotive Service Educational Program admission process

You should be ready to learn in a fast-paced, challenging environment in these specialized programs.

To gain admission, you must first follow these steps:

1. Obtain a letter of sponsorship from a participating dealership. You will be required to participate in an interview with the dealer to ensure you meet the entrance requirements.
2. Complete and submit the [preliminary data form](#). Submit your high school transcripts with this form. If you are having trouble obtaining your transcripts, contact SAIT at 403.284.8471.
3. Complete the aptitude test. Contact the School of Transportation at 403.284.8471 or email [transportation.info@sait.ca](mailto:transportation.info@sait.ca) to book your test date and time. If you pass the aptitude test, you will be notified that you can register as an apprentice.

[Preliminary data form](#)

## Costs

### 2023/24 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2023.

### Domestic Students

| Period             | Number of weeks | Tuition fees | Additional fees | Total          |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1                  | 8               | \$1,056      | \$319           | \$1,375        |
| 2                  | 8               | \$1,056      | \$319           | \$1,375        |
| 3                  | 8               | \$1,056      | \$319           | \$1,375        |
| 4                  | 8               | \$1,056      | \$319           | \$1,375        |
| <b>Total cost:</b> |                 |              |                 | <b>\$5,500</b> |

## Books and Supplies

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.