

# Automotive Technology Career



## Past and Projected Job Openings and Earnings

Advanced Transportation Occupations in Region	2016 Jobs	2021 Jobs	Job Growth	5 Year Openings*	Annual Openings	Earnings		
						Entry Hourly	Average Hourly	Experienced Hourly
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	4,429	4,855	9%	2,352	470	\$18.87	\$34.15	\$51.10
Automotive Body and Related Repairers	1,599	1,702	6%	876	175	\$11.47	\$19.10	\$32.97
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	9,848	10,482	6%	5,281	1,056	\$10.68	\$19.20	\$32.92
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	4,519	5,023	11%	2,577	515	\$13.29	\$22.84	\$33.73
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics	1,728	1,862	8%	970	194	\$16.10	\$25.98	\$37.61

\*openings reflect job growth and attrition over five years

### Auto Technician Career Path

Most employers prefer to hire employees who have completed a vocational or community college automotive technical program.

Careers	Education Required	Salary Range
Manufacturer Corporate Employment	BA Degree Preferred/Required + Automotive Technical Degree/Certificate	\$78,000–\$85,800
General Manager Service Department	AA Degree in Business + Auto Management Classes + Auto/Technical Background	\$67,800–\$74,580
Service Writer	AA Degree in Business + Auto Management Classes + Auto/Technical Background	\$42,000–\$46,200
Senior Tech	ASE Certified Master Tech + AS Degree in Automotive Technology	\$32,300–\$35,530
Technician	ASE Certifications + Auto Technology Certificate	\$24,000–\$28,000
Entry Level	Quick Service Installer Program or Auto 100	\$21,000–\$25,000

## College of the Desert

43-500 Monterey Ave.  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

### Automotive Programs:

- A.S., Advanced Transportation Technologies
- Automotive Alternative Fuels Certificate
- A.S., Automotive Technology
- Automotive Air Conditioning Certificate
- Automotive Electrical Certificate
- Automotive Emissions Certificate
- Automotive Engine Mgt. Certificate
- Auto Transmission & Axle Certificate
- General Auto Service Certificate
- Light Duty Diesel Certificate
- Steering, Suspension, Align Certificate

### Contact:

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[www.collegeofthedesert.edu/students/ap/auto/Pages/automotivetechology.aspx](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu/students/ap/auto/Pages/automotivetechology.aspx)



## Fast Track to an Automotive Technology Career at College of the Desert

“Tesla Model S chassis. Instructors at Roundtable event with Tesla Motors discussing innovations in automotive technology and how they use technicians”



# Fast Track to an Automotive Technology Career

There are many paths to an automotive technology career. Our College offers the training necessary for a successful future in automotive technology. Choose from many different tracks, such as classes in auto mechanical general service to specialized service such as drive train, electric/hybrid systems, and engine performance courses.

## Why Choose a Career in Automotive?

The average wage across our region for automotive service technicians and mechanics is \$39,900 annually, or \$19.20 hourly. To start, you only need to have a high school diploma, although most employers prefer to hire employees who have completed a post-secondary vocational or community college automotive technician training program.

## Program Highlights

Our programs are supported by a wide variety of partners from both the state, college, and private industry. Most colleges offer specific corporate programs to ready you for a career in the auto industry. Our corporate programs include well-known companies such as General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, as well as Imports.

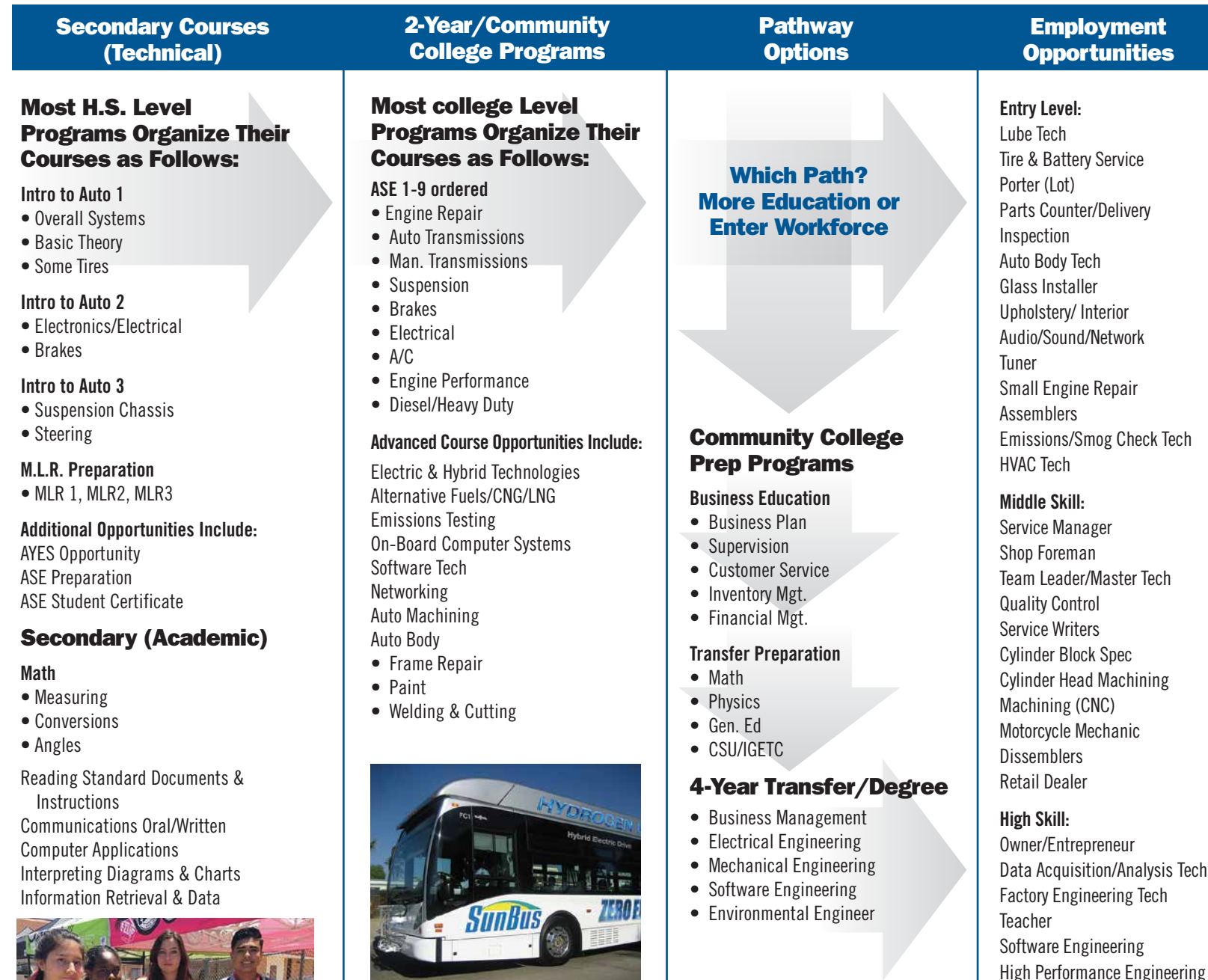
Southern California is a great place to start your career in the automotive industry. Southern California is home to over 500 new car dealerships, and in addition many corporate offices are located here, including BMW, Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Hyundai, Isuzu, Kia, Mazda, Suzuki, Toyota, and others! Plus, career enhancement opportunities exist for all graduates to progress within the dealer organization, including as a Service Manager, Parts Manager, and Service Advisor to name just a few.

## Qualifications

For anyone planning ahead for a career in automotive technology, students are advised to take courses in English, mathematics, computer technology, electronics, and auto and machine shop. To be successful, a high degree of mechanical ability as well as customer and personal service, engineering and technology knowledge, and critical thinking are necessary, as well as manual dexterity, auditory attention, and visualization.

## Industry Sector Pathway:

Automotive/Advanced Transportation



## Soft Skills for Employment

Reliable, Timely, Driver's License, Good Driving Record, Professional Clean Language, Honesty, Cell Phone Do's & Don'ts, Communication (Oral, Written, Body Language), Work Ethic, Interpersonal Skills, Responsibility "No Excuses", Team Work, Show Initiative, Don't Just Stand There!, Attitude, Job Search Skills, Eye Contact, Firm Handshake, Personal Presentation, Resume Writing



Automotive technologies are becoming more advanced

## Skills

### Are You Good At?

- Repairing Things
- Problem Solving
- Trouble Shooting
- Active Listening

### Wondering How to Get Started?

We offer a variety of automotive certificates, and can help you on your way to achieving an AS degree as well with the addition of a few general education classes. Just pick your path and choose between day or night classes! Many certificates can be finished within a year, and financial aid and scholarships are available.

### Automotive Information Links:

Automotive Youth Educational Systems  
<http://www.ayes.org/>

National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation  
<http://www.natef.org/>

National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence  
<http://www.ase.com/>

## Knowledge

### Do You Like?

- Mechanical Repairs
- Customer Service
- New Technologies
- Working with Computers