



**It's time... to get
hands on training in an
accredited automotive
program at Wiregrass!**



Education Foundation

wiregrass.edu

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program and other important information, please visit our website at <https://www.wiregrass.edu/gainful-employment>

You could find a great job in one these areas!

- Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers
- Repair and Maintenance Services
- Transportation Equipment
- Truck Transportation
- Commuter and Tourist Transit

Programs of Study include:

DIPLOMAS

- Automotive Technology (BHI, VLD)*
- Automotive Fundamentals (BHI)*

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES OF CREDIT

- Automotive Chassis Technician Specialist (BHI, VLD)*
- Automotive Climate Control Technician (BHI, VLD)*
- Auto Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician (BHI, VLD)*
- Automotive Engine Performance Technician (BHI, VLD)*
- Automotive Light Duty Diesel Engines (BHI)*
- Automotive Transmission/Transaxle Technician Specialist (BHI, VLD)*

**These are all eligible for the Hope Career grant*

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WIREGRASS
GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Equal Opportunity Institution | A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia | WGTC is accredited by SACSCOC

Automotive Technology Program Mission

The Automotive Technology program prepares individuals for work in automotive service and repair using a variety of tools and specialized equipment including computerized diagnostics in electrical systems, brakes, suspension and steering, drive train, transmissions, engine performance, and climate control systems.

Automotive Technology Program Goals

1. Assist students in obtaining the technical skills and workplace ethics necessary to qualify for employment and success in the automotive repair industry.
2. Be an active partner with local high schools in the promotion, recruitment, and education of future professionals for the automotive repair industry.
 1. Maintain and promote articulation agreements with interested high schools in our service area.
 2. Promote our automotive program at high schools within our service area.
3. Increase the percentage of students that complete the program.
 1. Institute a process to provide each learner with regular comprehensive and personal advising.
 2. Work with other departments to ensure that the related General Education courses are conveniently offered.
4. Stress within the curriculum and the facility, the latest environmental and safety practices.
 1. Operate the program in compliance with the latest environmental and safety practices.
 2. Work with college administration and the facilities department to ensure that the shop meets all appropriate ecological and safety standards.
5. Increase the use of state-of-the-art multi-media training resources.
 1. Develop internet reference materials and training programs.
 2. Establish and maintain a library of the latest inter-active training software.
 3. Network all lab computers so that access is easily attainable by students.

Automotive Technology Objectives

1. Keep faculty current through faculty development opportunities.
2. Maintain a facility and inventory of tools, equipment, and technology that duplicates a professional automotive repair business.
3. Provide current curriculum, instructional materials, and equipment (in accordance with available funding) which teach knowledge, skills, and attitudes appropriate to industry needs.
4. Provide educational facilities which foster learning and provide safe, healthy environments, available and accessible, to all students who can benefit from the program.
5. Provide academic instruction which supports effective learning within the program and which enhances professional performance on the job.
6. Provide employability skills which foster work attitudes and work habits that will enable graduates of the program to perform as good employees.
7. Nurture the desire for learning so that graduates will pursue their own continuing education as a lifelong endeavor.

8. Provide an educational atmosphere which promotes a positive self-image and a sense of personal well-being.
9. Provide education that fosters development of good safety habits.
10. Provide admission, educational, and placement services without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicapping condition, academic disadvantage, or economic disadvantage.
11. Provide information to the public regarding the program that will facilitate recruitment and enrollment of students.
12. Promote good public relations via contacts and regular communications with business, industry, and the public sector.
13. Promote faculty and student rapport and communications to enhance student success in the program.

An Overview of the Automotive Technician

What is an Automotive Technician and where do they work?

Behind every car or truck is an automobile technician who keeps that vehicle running. Automobile technicians, or automotive service technicians, work inside mechanic shops, auto dealerships, and other garages to diagnose and repair car and truck trouble. Their specific duties vary based on their training and area of focus, but auto technicians use many of the same tools and share similar working conditions. Among all automotive technicians and mechanics, the median annual income was \$47,770 as of December 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nearly a third of the nation's 723,400 automotive technicians and mechanics worked for independent repair and maintenance shops as of 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Car dealers employed 26 percent of technicians and mechanics, while another 8 percent work for car parts and tire stores. Three percent worked for local governments. About 18 percent of technicians and mechanics were self-employed. Regardless of where they work, technicians need physical strength and stamina. They spend many hours on the job in uncomfortable positions, using tools and installing parts. Because they lift heavy repair devices and parts, service technicians have an above-average rate of work-related injury.

What are the duties of an Automotive Technician?

Automotive technicians' duties revolve around troubleshooting and repair of cars and trucks. Technicians comb vehicles for mechanical problems and test systems for malfunctions. They put together reports of problem spots for cars' owners and estimate parts and costs needed for repair. Once they have the client's approval, technicians make repairs on components ranging from fuel injectors to mufflers. Technicians also handle routine maintenance to protect cars from bigger repairs down the road. They change oil and oil filters, rotate tires, and tune up.

What personal qualities, skills and tools should an Automotive Technician have?

Tools – Auto technicians use a variety of tools and equipment on the job. Because many car components are electronic, technicians use computers to diagnose trouble. Pressure indicators and voltage meters help technicians spot problems with engine oil pressure and ignitions. To make repairs, technicians use power wrenches, welding torches, and hand tools including pliers and screwdrivers. Plus, they use computers and

estimating software to put together repair bids, electronic databases to report and track mechanical problems, and accounting software to prepare invoices. Students are encouraged to purchase tools necessary for employment in a shop equal to the MAST Certification tool list. A tool list is available from the instructor.

Specialties – Service technicians who want to go beyond routine car care can specialize in maintenance types. Air-conditioning repairers install and fix compressors, condensers, and other air-conditioning components. Brake repairers adjust brakes and replace brake linings and pads. Technicians can also focus on transmissions and steering mechanisms and suspension systems. Careers in diesel mechanics, farm equipment, and small engines on motorcycles or boats are options as well. To specialize, technicians often need additional education or training. Air-conditioning repairers, for example, must learn government regulations that cover coolant handling and other environmental controls. Transmission technicians must know how to use computers to diagnose electrical and hydraulic problems.

Training – Many employers prefer auto technicians with a vocational or postsecondary award in automotive service technology and coursework in basic math, computers, electronics, car repair, and customer service. Aspiring technicians can also earn an associate's degree through a car manufacturer or dealership. Entry-level techs typically work as trainees under experienced mechanics and take on more responsibilities as they gain skills in various repairs. Also, some employers require service technicians to become certified through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. To obtain the credential, technicians need at least two years of experience, and they must pass an exam. Certification is available in eight areas, including heating and air conditioning, electrical systems, and manual drive train. Some vocational schools offer certificates of achievement in categories such as automotive chassis technology, power train technology, basic engine performance, and smog system repair.

What are the working conditions of an Automotive Technician?

Regardless of where they work, technicians need physical strength and stamina. They spend many hours on the job in uncomfortable positions, using tools and installing parts. Because they lift heavy repair devices and parts, service technicians have an above-average rate of work-related injury.

What are the physical demands of an Automotive Technician?

Strength – Upper body strength is important for auto mechanics, since they must use heavy tools like hoists and jacks. Automotive parts can also be heavy and require strength to lift and manipulate. Auto mechanics must have sufficient strength in their arms to effectively use hand tools like hammers and wrenches and to make sure that fasteners are properly secured.

Stamina – Auto mechanics need stamina, since the nature of their work often requires physical activity over extended periods of time. For example, the removal or installation of a transmission or an engine involves several hours of continuous work to complete all the required tasks.

Flexibility – While performing repairs, auto mechanics must often work in cramped places, such as underneath a jacked-up automobile. Automotive work requires bending, turning, and squatting. In order to access hard-to-reach areas on a vehicle that needs repairs, mechanics need good range of motion in their limbs.

Fine Motor Skills – Auto mechanics should possess excellent manual dexterity and fine motor skills. They must be able to work with small fasteners, such as nuts, bolts, and washers. They must also be able to handle with finesse the many small components that make up the various systems of an automobile.

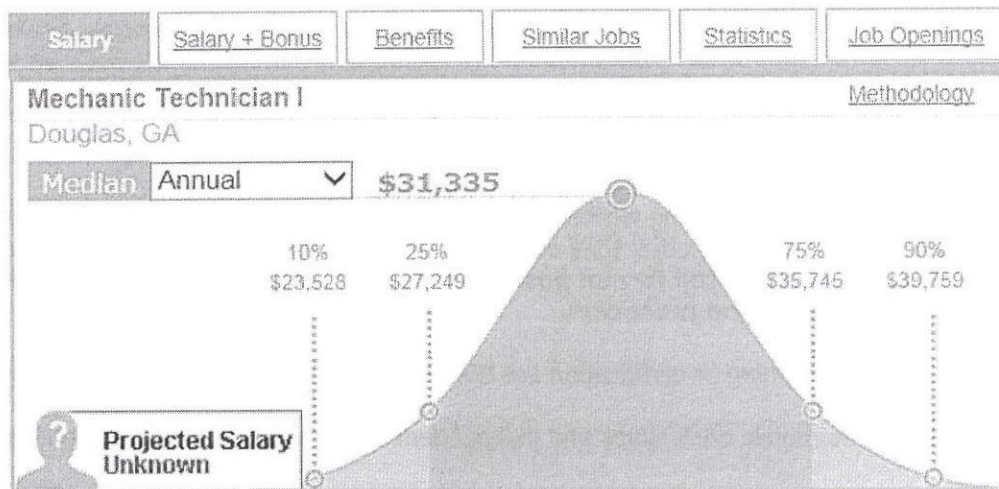
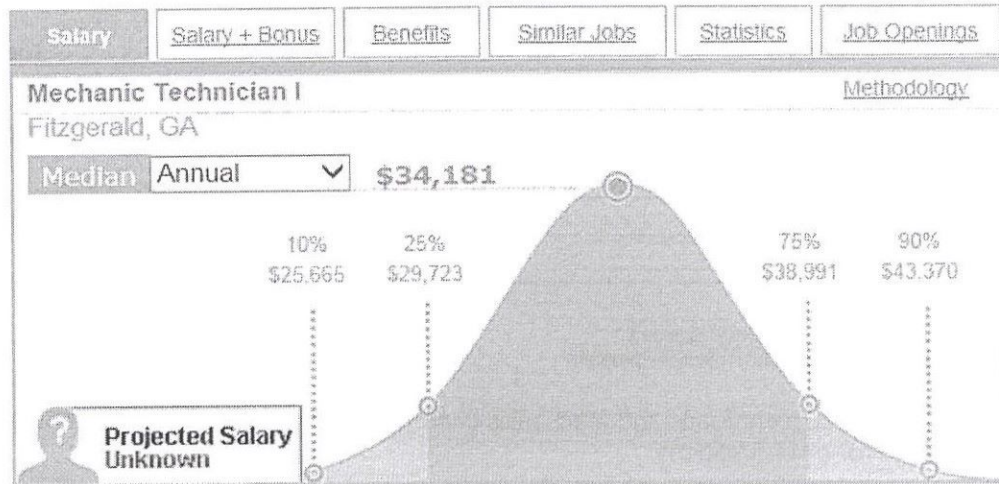
Vision – Normal color vision is a must for auto mechanics. They need to be able to read diagrams. Often, they are required to work with color-coded wiring. Auto mechanics also need good close-up vision, either normal or corrected, in order to see small parts and fasteners.

What skills should an Automotive Technician have?

1. **Strong Customer Service Skills** – Great mechanics are able to relate well to customers. They are able to communicate effectively with them and put them at ease about the diagnosis and repair suggestions.
2. **Strong Communication Skills** – A good mechanic has excellent communication skills and is able to translate complex technical jargon into plain English for the average customer.
3. **Good Diagnostic Skills** – A great auto mechanic is able to quickly identify the source of a problem and other related issues. He is aware of diagnostic resources and takes advantage of them as necessary.
4. **Problem-Solving Skills** – Good mechanics can quickly suggest possible ways of addressing problems. They should be able to find the best solution in a limited amount of time.
5. **Solid Work Ethic** – A great mechanic has a solid work ethic. He is committed to quickly solving and repairing problems and is honest with customers.
6. **Strong Technical Aptitude** – Mechanics should be able to use a variety of technical tools to diagnose and address a wide variety of vehicular problems.
7. **Up-to-Date Technology** – Vehicles and technology are continually evolving, and great mechanics stay on top of these changes so they can best serve their customers. As hybrids become more popular, for example, mechanics will be knowledgeable on the most common problems or what could be the most common problems.
8. **Leadership** – Mechanics interested in advancing in the profession have savvy leadership skills and are able to take charge when situations warrant.
9. **Certified** – While certification is not a requirement of mechanics, it demonstrates a sense of motivation and ambition to both employers and customers. Certification also ensures that the mechanic is up-to-date on the latest technologies and techniques in the industry.
10. **Personal Tool Inventory** – Though not always required of a mechanic, a personal inventory of high-quality tools can ensure that a mechanic feels comfortable using tools, and learning new tools as they become available. Many mechanics use their own tools on customers' vehicles.

Salary Information

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics



<http://www.salary.com/>

Job Outlook

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics

Percent change in employment, projected 2014-24

	Total, all occupations
	7%
	Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers
	6%
	Automotive service technicians and mechanics
	5%

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

The number of vehicles in use continues to rise, and more entry-level service technicians will be needed to perform basic maintenance and repair, such as replacing brake pads and changing oil. New technologies, however, such as electric vehicles, may limit future demand for automotive service technicians and mechanics because they will be more reliable and thus require less maintenance and repair.

Job Prospects

With some employers reporting difficulty finding workers with the right skills and education, job opportunities for qualified applicants should be very good, whether they obtained their knowledge through education or experience. Of these workers, **those who have completed formal postsecondary training programs or achieved ASE certification should enjoy the best job prospects.**

Those without formal automotive training or certification are likely to face strong competition for entry-level jobs.

Many job openings will be in automobile dealerships and independent repair shops, where most service technicians currently work.

Employment projections data for automotive service technicians and mechanics, 2014-24						
Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2014	Projected Employment, 2024	Change, 2014-24		Employment by Industry
				Percent	Numeric	
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program						
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	49-3023	739,900	779,000	5	39,100	[XLSX]

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/automotive-service-technicians-and-mechanics.htm> (visited April 26, 2016).