

Career Focus on...

# Automotive Technology

## Introduction

- Do you enjoy working with your hands?
- Do you have strong problem-solving skills?
- Are you interested in cars?
- Do you want a career in the automotive industry?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider a career in Automotive Technology.

## Did You Know... ?

- Today’s automobiles are regulated by integrated electronic systems and computers, which requires today’s technicians to have a broad knowledge of a vehicle’s complex components, as well as the ability to work with computerized equipment and digital technology.
- Many experienced technicians employed by automobile dealers and independent repair shops receive a commission related to the labor cost charged to the customer. As such, the annual salary could be greater than otherwise projected through regular full-time earnings.
- Automobile technicians and mechanics must continually adapt to changing technology and repair techniques.

## Automotive Technology @ QCC

Quinsigamond Community College offers both a certificate and a degree program in Automotive Technology.

The Ford Maintenance and Light Repair Program Certificate curriculum was designed by Ford Motor Company to prepare certified light line technicians for Ford/Lincoln/Mercury dealerships. The program features hands-on training on late-model vehicles, as well as classroom instruction. Upon successful completion, the graduate will be awarded a Certificate in Maintenance and Light Repair. All of the courses required for the certificate will apply towards the Associate in Applied Science in Automotive Technology degree offered by the college.

The Associate in Applied Science in Automotive Technology prepares the graduate to:

- Become an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified Master technician.
- Become knowledgeable in all aspects of automotive systems and service techniques, allowing the graduate to adapt new technology and service procedures as they are developed.
- Transfer to a bachelor degree program at colleges and universities with related fields of study.
- Be capable of growing as a dealership employee, moving up the career ladder.

Upon successful completion of the Automotive Technology Program, the graduate will fill the need of the many dealerships and independent repair shops in the Central Massachusetts area and beyond.

## Career Options

### TIRE TECHNICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$23,170

Recommended Education: High School diploma (H.S.) or G.E.D., and additional training  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3093.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3093.00)

### AUTO ELECTRICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$28,450

Recommended Education: H.S. diploma or A.S.  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-2096.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-2096.00)

### MASTER AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$35,790

Recommended Education: Vocational School with training, or Associate Degree (A.S.)  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3023.01](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3023.01)

### FUEL INJECTION TECHNICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$36,310

Recommended Education: H.S. or G.E.D., and additional training  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-2031.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-2031.00)

### AUTOMOBILE DAMAGE APPRAISER

Median Annual Salary: \$56,230

Recommended Education: A.S. or Bachelor Degree (B.S.)  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1032.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1032.00)

## Worcester Area Employers

- Harr Motor Group
- Worcester Tire Company
- Acme Transmission
- Herb Chambers Companies
- Demers Auto Service Group
- Meineke Car Care Center
- Sunnyside Ford Motor Company
- Langway Ford, Inc.
- W.J. Hoey Tire Company
- C&R Tire Company

## Next Steps

Wondering if Automotive Technology is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this page and more: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview. Speak with a live person employed in this field: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session: [www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf](http://www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf)
- Speak with an Advisor: [www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCall/advCall.asp](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCall/advCall.asp)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Automotive Technology courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*:

- Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics: [www.bls.gov/oco/ocos181.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos181.htm)

Employment & Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, O\*NET Online, Summary Reports for:

- Automotive Master Mechanics: [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3023.01](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3023.01)
- Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers, Motor Vehicles: [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-2096.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-2096.00)
- Tire Repairers and Changers: [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3093.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3093.00)
- Engine and Other Machine Assemblers: [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-2031.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/51-2031.00)
- Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage: [www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1032.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1032.00)

Quinsigamond Community College, "Automotive Technology," 2011|2012 Catalog.

## Professional Associations

- National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence: [www.ase.com](http://www.ase.com)
- Society of Automotive Engineers: [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org)
- Tire Industry Association: [www.tireindustry.org](http://www.tireindustry.org)

## Positions Entered by QCC Graduates

- Repair Technician
- Automotive Technician
- Service Consultant
- Parts Consultant
- Transmission Technician

## Looking for employment, co-op, internship, or service learning opportunities?

Contact the Career Placement Office: [www.QCC.edu/pages/Career\\_Placement.html](http://www.QCC.edu/pages/Career_Placement.html)

## Possible Transfer Schools

- Assumption College
- Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
- Fitchburg State University

## Looking for Specific Transfer Information?

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to: [transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)