State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Automotive Technology

Modern auto shops rely on skilled workers and innovative technologies to repair and maintain car engines and systems.

What Students Learn & Do

The automotive industry is one of the world's largest economic sectors, and automotive technology has become increasingly specialized and complex. Automotive technology programs immerse students in the tools and technology used in modern auto shops. Students work directly with cars in a shop or lab, learning how to maintain and repair engines, transmissions, drive train, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical systems, and heating and air conditioning. Students also learn industry safety standards and practice the collaboration and communication skills that are so important in service industries.

Students in Automotive Technology are required to meet the same high academic standards as peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. Additionally, mathematics and computer technologies are fundamental to this field, and learning engine mechanics provides a strong foundation for pursuing an engineering degree at the college level.

Students who complete the appropriate certifications during high school can begin working right away as automotive technicians. Or, students may use their experiences with automotive technology as a springboard into college and professional careers in engineering or business.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- OSHA 10 hour - General
- SP/2 Safety
- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certifications
- National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
- SnapOn Equipment Certifications

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training required for entry-level employment in this in-demand career field. Here are some possible career options in Automotive Technology.

High School Diploma

- Automotive Technician
- Automotive Parts Specialist
- Service Advisor

Trade School or Associate Degree

- Mechanical Engineering Technician
- Automotive Sales Manager

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Mechanical Engineer
- Automotive Designer
- Teacher - Automotive Technology

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS