



KCC Automotive & Diesel Technology Program FAQs

What is so special about KCC's Automotive/Diesel Technology Program?

Due to the increase of advanced technology used to build and maintain automobiles and heavy duty trucks, automotive and diesel technicians require more intense and sophisticated high-tech training. The work of these service technicians has evolved from basic mechanical repair to one of the most technological jobs presently available. KCC has veered away from the more common methodology of automotive/diesel education and created a more modular curriculum. In addition to redesigned core curriculum, which covers all eight ASE areas, lab activities are designed to be more realistic and representative of life in the dealership or aftermarket shop.

KCC's Automotive/Diesel Technology Programs are very intense; requiring students to apply themselves academically in ways they have never had to before. Terms are comprised of structured ASE areas. This ensures the student technicians have covered the required NATEF material and are familiar with diagnosis, troubleshooting and basic service issues. At the end of specific terms, the student technicians test in ASE area or areas covered in the previous term. In addition to the thorough training and ASE Certification, KCC students will complete the Associate of Applied Science Degree curriculum. This requires obtaining twenty four credit hours of related instruction. The result is a well-educated and highly trained entry-level technician!

How do I enroll in the Automotive/Diesel Technology Program?

For admission to the program, an application is required. This is a separate step from the testing and assessment steps. Automotive Technology Program application packets are available from KCC Student Services, Admissions and the automotive program staff office in the KCC Career Technical Center. Enrollment in this program is limited, and there is an early deadline for applications. Applications must be returned to KCC before the published application deadlines. Applications must be complete and include the \$25 application fee. Applications will be scored and applicants will be notified whether the application is accepted or declined. All accepted applicants must attend the Automotive Technology Orientation as a prerequisite to beginning the program. We recommend that you contact KCC Student Services at 541.882.3521, or the Director of Career technical Education at 541.880.2215 for details if you are considering the Automotive Technology AAS degree. To enroll, you must have a high school diploma or GED certificate.

What skills or traits would be helpful for the Automotive/Diesel Technology Program?

- Good reading, writing and math skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Positive attitude
- Mechanical aptitude
- Ability to work accurately
- Attention to detail and procedure
- A desire to be the best automotive or diesel technician in the world

How large is the Class size?

KCC's Automotive/Diesel Technology Programs are highly selective. To ensure the highest quality of instruction, the programs limit class size to fourteen (14) student technicians at the beginning of each cycle which will normally occur in the fall term.

Do I have to pass classes to remain in the program?

Students must earn grades of "C" or higher in all courses to continue in their respective program.

Do I have to show up for classes daily?

Due to the large amount of technical information that must be learned, attendance is not an option. Automotive/Diesel Technology are intensive courses requiring exemplary attendance. Professional technicians are dependable individuals who report to work on time and with regularity. As such, your attendance in this class is necessary in order to receive a passing grade. Tardiness is unprofessional and will have serious repercussions to the student's overall grade. Student technicians who are tardy three times will accrue one absence, after the third absence, the student will be withdrawn from the class. If a class period must be missed due to unforeseen circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor before the class period is missed. The Automotive/Diesel Technology student technicians are expected to have the same attitude towards class/lab attendance as their employers will expect of them in the future.

Why do I have to wear a uniform?

Uniforms are a repair industry standard. Wearing an industry recognized uniform identifies who you are and shows all those around you that you have chosen a career in one of the most high-tech fields available. Additionally, it unifies our student technicians and brings attention to our industry and program. Always remember, while in uniform you are a representative of the KCC Automotive/Diesel Technology Program and will be noticed by all those around you.

Why do I have to purchase tools?

All careers require tools of one form or another. Automotive/Diesel technicians require the most! In order to repair complex concerns on contemporary vehicles, a complete set of tools will be required. Hundreds of hours of research have gone into the programs' required tool list and represent the highest quality and minimum quantity of tools required to perform the NATEF tasks. These tools are only the beginning; as your skills grow you will require more tools in order to apply those skills. Master Technicians can expect to have tens-of-thousands of dollars invested in their tools. Of course, tools will allow you to make money throughout your professional career and beyond.

Can I bring in my own tool box and tools?

Due to space constraints and NATEF requirements, student technicians must purchase the required program tools and tool chest. Possessing the required tools ensures that student technicians will be able to complete the required NATEF tasks without borrowing tools from other students. Simply stated, automotive/diesel technicians require quality tools to perform their jobs. Borrowing tools from other technicians is frowned upon in the industry so our student technicians are required to possess profession quality tools that are indicative of their certification and training. Additional tools may be brought into the program and used with instructor approval but the required tools must still be purchased.

What is ASE Certification?

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was founded in 1972 as a non-profit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive/diesel service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of service professionals. Simply stated, ASE was founded to provide an independent assessment of a technician's technical knowledge.

Why do I have to have ASE Certification?

Achieving certification provides a badge of accomplishment and professionalism that consumers can readily identify. ASE Certification shows a strong sense of commitment to the profession from the technician. Achieving ASE Certification is not easy—nothing worthwhile is—but embracing the value of professional credentials and training help improve the image of the automotive repair industry and help reduce fraud by providing a well-trained and educated workforce. In addition, most shop owners and dealership service managers recognize the need for entry level technicians to possess these certifications as a requirement of employment. As part of KCC's commitment to industry needs and student achievement, our Automotive and Diesel Technology Programs support and encourage ASE certification by requiring enrolled students to attempt ASE testing twice a year as outlined in the programs' curriculum. It is demanding but you will be ready to succeed!

What ASE areas are taught?

You will be trained to diagnose, repair and pass ASE Certification in all eight ASE areas: Engines; Electrical Systems; Brake Systems; Steering and Suspension; Heating and Air Conditioning; Automatic and Manual Transmission and Advanced Engine Management Systems.

Is ASE Certification covered in the tuition?

No. ASE Certification testing costs depend on the number of tests a technician takes so the costs will vary each testing cycle. Additionally, a student technician may wish to retest in order to score higher or to make up for a failed attempt. The student technician will be responsible for paying for each ASE test in addition to the regular program fees, tuition and program costs.

How long do ASE Certifications last?

Once a student achieves ASE Certification in an ASE area, the certification is good for five years.

Do I have to pass ASE tests to remain in the program?

To ensure the highest quality program graduates, KCC's student technicians must pass a minimum of five (5) ASE Tests to successfully complete the Automotive Technology Program and four (4) ASE Tests to successfully complete the Diesel Technology Program.

Why do we have to attend during the summer?

The National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) is the governing body of automotive technology training programs throughout the United States and requires those training programs to meet specific guidelines. NATEF was founded as an independent, non-profit organization with a single mission: To evaluate technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry. Automotive training programs instructing in all eight ASE areas must have a minimum total of 1,080 hours of combined laboratory, shop and classroom instruction. KCC was not interested in meeting the minimum requirement; we are dedicated to exceeding it. In order to produce the finest automotive technicians in the industry, we needed

extra time. Our student technicians receive over 1,600 hours of instruction; instruction needed to assure complete systems coverage and student understanding of the subject matter. This time demand necessitated a seven-term course.

Are we allowed to work on our own vehicles?

Scheduled "open labs" will occur at the discretion of the instructor. During "open labs" students will be invited to work on personal vehicles if the applicable repairs coincide with covered ASE areas. Absolutely no work will take place without a signed Work Order and all associated documents. This includes vehicles belonging to students, faculty and staff. Work Orders must be signed by the registered owner along with the waiver of responsibility. Work Orders must be displayed on the vehicle until completed and verified by the instructor, then returned to the parts room.

Can I bring in someone else's vehicle to work on?

The instructor will make the final decision as to whether or not a project is to be worked on and when the work will be done. Unsafe vehicles will not be worked on. If a vehicle is approved for repair, all rules stated previously will apply.

What kind of work will be available to me upon completion of the Automotive/Diesel Technology Program?

Automotive/Diesel technologies are rapidly increasing in sophistication. As a result, most training authorities strongly recommend that persons seeking automotive/diesel service technician and mechanic jobs complete a formal training program in a postsecondary vocational school or community college. Graduates of KCC's Automotive/Diesel Technology Programs will be trained to work successfully in several areas of the repair industry:

- Lubrication/Maintenance Technician
- Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician
- Engine Mechanical/Engine Performance Technician
- Automatic/Manual Transmission Technician
- Brake System Technician
- Suspension & Steering Technician
- Heating & Air Conditioning Technician
- Master Automotive/Diesel Technician

How well are Automotive/Diesel Technicians paid?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is a shortage of about 60,000 automotive and diesel technicians nation-wide today. A high-tech career in this field offers mobility and job security. The average starting wage is \$11.50 to \$13.50 per hour, median wages average \$20.00 per hour and the average journeyman wage is about \$60,000 per year. Opportunities for employment, high wages and career advancement have never been greater in the automotive and heavy duty diesel service field.