Automotive Service
Bachelor of Science
2025-2026

General Areas of Service:
The ability to diagnose the source of a problem quickly and accurately is one of the mechanic's most valuable skills. This requires good reasoning ability and a thorough knowledge of automobiles. This program gives you a strong foundation to acquire these skills. During routine service, mechanics inspect, adjust, lubricate, and repair engines and other vehicle components before they cause breakdowns. They usually follow a checklist to be sure they examine all important parts, such as belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome items.
An automotive technician generally works with, repairs, and tests cars for automobile manufacturers, car dealerships, bus lines, or in garage or service stations. With proper credentials and certification, automotive technicians can often become teachers of vocational courses or open their own shops.

Professional Training:
Automotive technology is rapidly increasing in sophistication, and most training authorities strongly recommend that persons seeking automotive technician jobs complete a formal training program after graduating from high school. However, some automotive technicians still learn the trade solely by assisting and working with experienced mechanics.

Job Outlook:
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is projected to grow 2 percent from 2022 to 2032, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 67,700 openings for automotive service technicians and mechanics are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. The number of vehicles in use is expected to continue rising over the decade, and some service technicians will be needed to maintain and repair them. Many owners are keeping their vehicles longer, which should support demand for these workers to provide the servicing that older vehicles often require. However, the increasing prevalence of electric vehicles, which require less maintenance and repair, may limit future demand for these workers." (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "the median annual wage for automotive service technicians and mechanics was $49,670 in May 2024." (See www.bls.gov) Many Automotive Technician Mechanics' earnings have ranged from $60,000 - $100,000 a year. (See www.indeed.com)

Elective Note:
Electives: 4 credits must be within the Technology Department.
Electives must be chosen from AVIA, TECH, CPTR, FINA, GBUS, ECON, ACCT, MKTG, MGMT, GRPH, and/or PHTO in consultation with and approved by the academic advisor assigned by the department chair.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Canaday Technology Center
(509) 527-2712

Websites
Walla Walla University
University Bulletin

Automotive Program
Technology Department

Technician

Faculty
Chair
Rob Holm

Advisor
Derik Larson

Professional Organizations
International Automotive Technicians Network

National Automotive Technicians Educational Foundation

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr. GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 64-69 cr. See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Art.

All B.A. degrees require a minor

Cognates are listed in *italics.*

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Internal Combustion Engine Theory (AUTO 134)	2
Lab for AUTO 134 (AUTO 135)	2
Introduction to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
Fundamentals of Speech Comm. (SPCH 101)	4
General Studies	1
Conceptual Physics I & Lab (PHYS 201 & 204)	4
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Manual Drive Trains & Axles (AUTO 145)	2
Lab for AUTO 145 (AUTO 146)	2
Fundamentals of CAD (DSGN 121)	2
Introduction to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Materials & Processes (TECH 235)	4
General Studies	3
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Electrical Systems (AUTO 156)	2
Lab for AUTO 156 (AUTO 157)	2
General Studies	8
Conceptual Physics II & Lab (PHYS 202 & 205)	4
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Engine Performance (AUTO 214)	2
Lab for AUTO 214 (AUTO 215)	2
Principles of Accounting (ACCT 201)	4
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
- Suspension and Steering Systems (AUTO 335)	2
- Lab for AUTO 335 (AUTO 336)	2
Business Analytics with Excel (CIS 140)	4
General Studies	9
Total	17

Spring Courses	Hours
- Climate Control Systems (AUTO 355)	2
- Lab for AUTO 355 (AUTO 356)	2
Fabrication & Machining I (TECH 241)	2
General Studies	10
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
- Body Electronics & Computer Systems (AUTO 466)	3
Practicum (AUTO 280)	1-6
Space Planning & Design (TECH 380)	3
Oxyacetylene Welding & Cutting (TECH 137)	2
Colloquium (AUTO 495)	0
General Studies	2-7
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
+ Brake Systems & Traction Control (AUTO 337)	2
+ Lab for AUTO 337 (AUTO 338)	2
+ Diesel Engines (AUTO 365)	3
General Studies	9
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
+ Automatic Transmissions & Transaxles (AUTO 357)	2
Lab for AUTO 357 (AUTO 358)	2
+ Alternative Fuels (AUTO 473)	3
Practicum (AUTO 280)	1-6
General Studies	3-8
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
CNC Prototyping (TECH 335)	3
Advanced Practicum (AUTO 480)	1-6
Colloquium (AUTO 495)	0
General Studies	7-12
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
- High Performance Engine Tuning (AUTO 434)	3
Advanced Practicum (AUTO 480)	1-6
Management Option (*MGMT 371 OR* 375)	4
Senior Project (TECH 499)	1-3
General Studies	0-7
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
- Advanced Engine Performance (AUTO 414)	3
Technology and Society (TECH 321)	4
*Major Electives	4
Shielded Metal Arc Welding (TECH 138)	2
General Studies	3
Total	16

Office of Academic Advisement

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