

Automotive Technology Associate of Science 2025-2026

General Areas of Service:

Many automotive service technologists and mechanics perform a variety of repairs while others choose to specialize. In their field, they usually repair or replace parts, rewire electrical systems, adjust brakes, and mend body parts. Typically, mechanics work in car dealerships, service stations, garages, automotive factories, and service departments.

Professional Training:

A high school diploma and college automotive courses are needed. The profession requires manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination. Some training can be done on the job and an apprenticeship is recommended as competition for these jobs are keen. This A.S. degree in Automotive Technology is planned to be a three-year program.

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)

Denominational Opportunities: Most denominational institutions hire automotive shop personnel.

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 - \$90,000 a year. (See www.indeed.com)

Elective Note:

The Associate of Science degree in Automotive Technology is NOT designed to be completed in two years. Due to the many alternating-year AUTO classes, it will generally take three years of full-time study to complete the required classes for the degree. The A.S. in Automotive Technology is primarily intended for students who are already pursuing a Bachelor’s degree.

Before graduation, all students must take an exit exam.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Canaday Technology Center
(509) 527-2712

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[Automotive Program](#)
[Technology Department](#)

Faculty

Chair
[Rob Holm](#)

Advisor
[Derik Larson](#)

Professional Organizations

[Automotive Service Councils of California](#)

[National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation](#)

Suggested Degree Path

See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details

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 |
| General Studies | 9 |
| 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 |
| General Studies Math | 4 |
| General Studies | 3 |
| Total | 16 |

| Spring Courses | Hours |
|---|-----------|
| Electrical Systems (AUTO 156) | 2 |
| Lab for AUTO 156 (AUTO 157) | 2 |
| + Automatic Transmissions & Transaxles (AUTO 357) | 2 |
| + Lab for AUTO 357 (AUTO 358) | 2 |
| General Studies | 8 |
| Total | 16 |

Sophomore Year

| Fall Courses | Hours |
|---|-----------|
| Engine Performance (AUTO 214) | 2 |
| Engine Performance Lab (AUTO 215) | 2 |
| Research Writing (ENGL 223) | 3 |
| General Studies | 9 |
| Total | 16 |

| Winter Courses | Hours |
|--|-----------|
| - Suspension & Steering Systems (AUTO 335) | 2 |
| - Suspension and Steering Systems Lab (AUTO 336) | 2 |
| - Advanced Engine Performance (AUTO 414) | 3 |
| General Studies | 9 |
| Total | 16 |

| Spring Courses | Hours |
|--|-----------|
| - Climate Control Systems (AUTO 355) | 2 |
| - Climate Control Systems Lab (AUTO 356) | 2 |
| Practicum (AUTO280) | 1-6 |
| General Studies | 6-11 |
| Total | 16 |

Junior Year

| Fall Courses | Hours |
|--|-----------|
| General Studies/Major Electives | 13 |
| CNC Prototyping (TECH 335) | 3 |
| Total | 16 |

| Winter Courses | Hours |
|---|-----------|
| + Brake Systems & Traction Control (AUTO 337) | 2 |
| + Lab for AUTO 337 (AUTO 338) | 2 |
| General Studies/Major Electives | 12 |
| Total | 16 |

| Spring Courses | Hours |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| General Studies/Major Electives | 16 |
| Total | 16 |

+ Offered even years only - Offered odd years only