

## Points of Interest and Clarification- **Automotive**

### **What are the degree and certificate options offered by your department?**

Associate in Science Degree – Automotive Technology  
Certificate – Automotive Technology  
Certificate – Automotive Chassis Specialist  
Certificate – Engine Performance Specialist  
Certificate – Automotive Management  
Certificate – Emission Control Specialist  
Certificate – Automotive Manual Drive Train Specialist Skills

For more information:

- FC Catalog: <https://www.fullcoll.edu/schedule/>
- FC CTE website: <https://cte.fullcoll.edu/>

**Best class to take to explore the major:** Auto 131\_F Automotive Fundamentals

**What job/career opportunities do your degrees and certificates prepare students for? (Stories of student successes and struggles are always helpful)**

See FC CTE website: <https://cte.fullcoll.edu/department/automotive-technology/>

- Hardin Honda hired three automotive students as Express Service Technicians who have their Auto Tech AS and various Auto Cert in progress. They are earning \$14-\$22/hourly.
- A strong partnership exists between the FC Automotive Department and Newport Lexus. Newport Lexus employs approximately 15 current and former students of the FC Automotive program at various Technician levels part time and full-time. They earn \$14-\$35/hourly.
- FC Automotive graduate is employed by the City of Anaheim as a Vehicle Technician II. He earned his state smog inspection license and smog repair licenses through his preparation in the automotive program. He is also an ASE Master Technician Certified for which his training at Fullerton College prepared him. He also does fabrication for the city of Anaheim of their Police vehicles.
- Premier Chrysler Jeep
- Toyota of Orange – 3 students
- Pep Boys (Fullerton) – 2 students
- Anaheim Mercedes-Benz – 1 student
- Tustin Toyota – 3 students

### **What permits or certifications are available to your students and what help do they provide?**

- **MACS Mobile Air Conditioning Society 609 Certification** – The test is proctored in the Auto 089\_F Automotive Air Conditioning course offered every spring. This certification is needed to handle automotive air conditioning refrigerant.
- **Automotive Emission Control Specialist Certificate** - The Emission Control Specialist Certificate will prepare the student for The National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Exams, The State of California Smog Check Inspector License Exam, and/or the State of California Smog Check Repair Technician License Exam. Completion of the Emission Control Specialist Certificate, ASE Exams, The California Smog Check Inspector Exam, and The California Smog Check Repair Technician License Exam will enable a student to seek employment within the California Smog Check Program. The Emission Control Specialist Certificate Program requires a total of 18 units of which 18 units are in required courses. For more information contact Tom Brenneman - [tbrenneman@fullcoll.edu](mailto:tbrenneman@fullcoll.edu) or Bob Maine – [rmaine@fullcoll.edu](mailto:rmaine@fullcoll.edu)
- **ASE - Automobile & Light Truck Certification Tests (A1 - A9)**  
<http://www.ase.com/Tests/ASE-Certification-Tests/Test-Series.aspx>

### **What are the occupational outlooks for these job/career opportunities in Orange County?**

See FC CTE website: <https://cte.fullcoll.edu/department/automotive-technology/>

### **How do you explain the benefits of a certificate and/or associates degree?**

The more time you spend in the automotive lab activities, the more your learning curve and experience better prepares you for the field. General education creates a better-rounded employee. Math, writing, psychology, communication, and reading classes can all provide transferable skills. Some employers prefer to hire employees with a degree. A degree also shows a commitment to education and training. Dealerships will send those types of employees to their factory training programs.

### **What student populations are your degrees and certificates most appropriate for? For example, are certain certificates more suitable for students who already have a degree?**

### **What partnerships do you have with the community and how can those partnerships assist students with networking and career placement?**

OCADA (Orange County Automobile Dealers Association) is our primary community partner. They provide scholarship opportunities, organize onsite automotive job fairs (at Fullerton College), create a networking connection with local high schools and other community colleges, and host an annual high school automotive competition that helps promote college automotive programs.

**What websites do you direct students to for employment purposes?**

- [www.OCAutoJobs.com](http://www.OCAutoJobs.com) sponsored by OCADA – Orange County Automobile Dealers Association. Job listings for local new car dealerships
- <https://semajobs.com> SEMA – Specialty Equipment Market Association. Aftermarket performance industry; great for students interested in pursuing a career in high performance vehicles/parts, vehicle modifications, and fabrication
- <https://jobs.autocarecareers.org/> Auto Care Careers. National listing of automotive related job openings. Students that are considering moving from Orange County after graduating will find this site useful.

**If you were an academic counselor, what additional advice would you provide a student interested in your programs?**

Questions to ask Automotive students – “Are you looking to specialize in a particular type of vehicle repair (ex: Brakes repair on any vehicle, engine repair on any vehicle) or are you looking to train in all areas of vehicle repair?”

<b>Vehicle Repair Specializations:</b>	<b>Corresponding Certificate(s):</b>	<b>Industry Recognized Certifications:</b>
<b>Brakes and Suspension</b>	Automotive Chassis Specialist Certificate	A5 ASE Certification
<b>Engine Computer Controls (ie the check engine lights)</b>	Engine Performance Specialist Certificate	A, A8, L1 ASE Certifications
<b>Smog Technician</b>	Emission Control Specialist Skills Certificate and the Engine Performance Specialist Certificate	A, A8, L1 ASE Certifications; the State of California Smog Check Inspector License Exam, and/or the State of California Smog Check Repair Technician License Exam
<b>Custom vehicle work (ie off road or restoration)</b>	Fabrication Specialist Skills Certificate	
<b>Air conditioning, brakes or electrical (things that are commonly serviced on a vehicle)</b>	Automotive Light Repair Specialist Certificate	A7 ASE Certification
<b>Heavy Line Technician Transmission Technician</b>	Automotive Manual Drive Train Specialist Skills Certificate	A3 ASE Certification
<b>Bumper to Bumper or general repair</b>	Automotive Tech	A1- A8 ASE Certifications

<b>Automotive Service Consulting (advising) or Management</b>	Automotive Management Certificate or Automotive Service Advisor Skills Certificate	C1 ASE Certification
---	--	----------------------

The Automotive Tech AS and Certificate

- Provide a broad background and training in all areas of vehicle repair for a student who is unsure of what area of repair they want to specialize in.

The FC Automotive Program specializes in training students in all automobile systems (brakes systems, engine systems, internal combustion, electric and hybrid vehicles).

Employment Tip: Working in an automotive shop while taking classes towards a certificate or degree can help you gain the work experience and training required to sit for ASE Certifications.

**What’s the difference between the Cypress Automotive Program and Fullerton College’s?**

FC has a robust program with rigorous hands on lab work in a live shop (ie. customer vehicles are repaired). All of FC’s instructors have worked in the automotive industry for 20+ years prior to teaching. Cypress’ program is aligned with Toyota and therefore specialized in providing training for Toyota. In contrast, the FC program provides broader training to work on a multitude of vehicles.

**How do you become a Master Technician?**

Passing all 8 ASE tests will earn the master technician status. Each car maker has their own manufacturers training and Master Tech Certification programs as well.