

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

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

State Approved and listed on transcript

A.S. in Automotive Technology

Automotive Management Certificate

Automotive Technology Certificate

Automotive Emission Control Specialist Certificate

Local certificates not listed on transcript

Automatic Transmission Specialist Certificate

Automotive Chassis Specialist Certificate

Automotive Maintenance Specialist Skills Certificate

Automotive Service Advisor Certificate

Automotive Engine Performance Specialist Certificate

Automotive Fabrication Specialist Certificate

Automotive Light Repair Specialist Certificate

Automotive Manual Drivetrain Specialist Certificate

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/>

- Peter Stawniczy started his Automotive Technology pathway in Sunny Hills High School's ROP Auto program. During his senior year in high school he participated in after school work experience at Premier Chrysler Jeep and the OCADA Automotive Competitions. These experiences led to a full-time position at Premier Chrysler Jeep. After graduating High School Peter attended Fullerton College, studied Business and Automotive Technology and earned his certifications to become an ASE Automobile Master Tech, Heavy Truck ASE Master Tech and Chrysler Automobile Master Tech. Now at 25 years old Peter works for the City of Santa Ana as an equipment mechanic and adjunct instructor for the Fullerton College Automotive Tech program. Additionally, Peter has his smog check and repair license and Fire Mechanic Level 1 license so that he can do repairs on fire trucks.
- John Farley reported that two of our FC automotive students obtained employment as technicians in two separate BMW repair shops a couple of years ago. They have now

opened up their own BMW repair shop here in Fullerton called Stryker Performance located in Fullerton.

- 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.
- Premier Chrysler Jeep
- Toyota of Orange – 4 students
- Pep Boys (Fullerton) – 3 students
- Anaheim Mercedes-Benz – 2 student
- Tustin Toyota – 3 students
- Four students have become Automotive faculty members
- 2 students are employed by The California Bureau of Automotive Repair
- Bedard Automotive employs 3 FC automotive students
- Bedard Automotive is owned by an FC automotive student graduate
- O'Reilly Auto Parts employs 1 student

### **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 3 classes, 18 units of which 18 units are in required courses. For more information contact 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?**  
(as reported by OCADA)

- Average starting: \$30k
- Average midrange: 58k
- Master Tech's with 8 ASE Certs and Brand specific certs (provided by manufacturer) make over \$100K

Pandemic - how has demand changed?

- At the beginning there were layoffs but the industry is now experiencing growth.

The Industry is transitioning to more Electric Vehicles in response to California executive orders to Phase Out Gasoline-Powered Cars & Drastically Reduce Demand for Fossil Fuel in California's Fight Against Climate Change

See FC CTE website: <https://cte.fullcoll.edu/departament/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.

### **Dealership Specific Insights**

Honda dealership recognizes and promotes ASE certifications and will even help pay for registration. Pay scale is based on ASE certs earned.

Mercedes aligns their training to ASE certs. Techs are compensated that way as well

Desirable entry level education and skills:

- Students with one year of CCC or UTI education/training.
- High school tech classes are accepted but community college and industry specific classes are preferred
- Soft skills, particularly communication skills so that they can communicate well with customers.

### **Transfer**

FC automotive courses transfer as Lower Division units to the Rio Hondo College B.A. in Automotive Technology Degree program

1 FC automotive student transferred from FC and completed the B.A. in Automotive Technology program at Rio Hondo College