I want to start my career in...

Automotive Service – Technicians and Mechanics

What will I do?
Automotive Technicians are in charge of ensuring cars, trucks, and other vehicles are working properly by performing maintenance, and body repairs.

What are the important facts?

Job Growth
Silicon Valley will have a large demand for automotive repairs due to the increased amount of Bay Area commuters.

In California, Technician and Mechanical mechanics are expected to have 2,590 new job openings between 2012 and 2022--this level of employment increase means there will be lots of new jobs in the field of Automotive.

Wage/Salary
Average hourly wage in San Jose begins at $24.92, with an annual salary of $51,840. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

Required Training
Automotive Technicians require formal training.

There are three routes to get the necessary training to become an Automotive Technician:
1. Community college – Certificate of Completion
2. Career Technical Education school/training center – industry recognized certificate
3. Apprenticeship or Trades Program

What are typical tasks?

• Inspect vehicles for any damages or necessary repairs.
• Test electrical systems & computers in automobiles to ensure it is operating properly.
• Work on engine repairs.
• Work on brake systems.
• Repair body damage from either a car accident or scratches on the paint.
• Rotate tires and repair flats.

What would make this career a great fit for me?

• Have a passion for cars, trucks, or other vehicles.
• Able to problem solve by following procedures and instructions.
• Enjoy working in a hands on environment.
• Ability to work as part of a team.
• Good customer service skills.

Where can I get the training I need?

• Automotive Labor Union
• Center for Employment Training
• De Anza College
• Evergreen College
• Job Corps
• Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE)

Insight Center for Community Economic Development (2016). http://www.insightced.org/tools-metrics/self...
## I want to start my career in... Automotive Services

### Step 1
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

### Education & Training: Automotive Service Technician or Mechanic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Technical Education Training</th>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Four Year University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Automotive Certificate of Completion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Associates Degree in Automotive Technology OR Certificate of Completion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Four-Year training program. Includes 8000 hours on the job, and 144 hours at a CC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering OR Electrical Engineering</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Center for Employment Training</td>
<td>- De Anza College</td>
<td>- Santa Clara County Automotive Trade</td>
<td>- Chico State</td>
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<td>- Stanford University</td>
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</tbody>
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### Step 2
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

### Career Pathways for Automotive Service Technician or Mechanic

#### Entry Level Positions:
**Automotive Service Technicians**

*Automotive Certificate of Completion, OR Associates Degree in Automotive Technology*

**Employers:**
- Jiffy Lube
- Sears
- Pep Boys

**Wage Information:**
- Average hourly wage in San Jose is $15.50, with an annual salary of $31,910

#### Mid-Level Positions:
**Automotive Mechanic/Journeyman**

*In order to advance from entry-level to mid-level, it takes 2-3 years of work experience at an entry-level position, PLUS becoming either an Apprentice OR acquiring a Bachelor’s Degree.*

**Employers:**
- Jiffy Lube
- Bridgestone
- Wheel Works

**Wage Information:**
- Average hourly wage in San Jose is $24.76, with an annual salary of $51,500.

#### Advanced Skills:
**Automotive Engineer**

*Mechanical Engineering OR Electrical Engineering*

**Employers:**
- Tesla
- Ford
- Honda

**Wage Information:**
- Average hourly wage in San Jose is $52.87, with an annual salary of $109,980.

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In order to advance from Entry Level to Mid-Level, it takes 2-3 years of work experience in an entry-level position, plus higher education and training, Apprentice or Bachelor’s degree.

These are not the exact career paths individuals must follow. This is meant to serve as an example and act as a guide.
What are the Skills Employers look for in Automotive Services?

Employers are looking for someone who:

• Has basic automotive training. This training can be through a Community College or an Automotive Trade program.
• Has a passion for working on cars or other vehicles.
• Enjoys problem solving when trying to fix the broken parts of a car.
• Is willing to learn while on the job.
• Is reliable and trustworthy.
• Is able to work on a team and collaborate with other team members.
• Is capable of following instructions.
• Is able to handle the physical labor required to work on cars.
• Has strong written and oral communication skills.
• Is able to lift and move up to 60 pounds many times during the day.
• Is able to be flexible with working hours. Sometimes it is required to work past 8 hours a day.
• Has strong customer service skills. This is important because in Automotive Services individuals will be dealing with customers.

Employers may also refer to me as:

• Vehicle Inspection Mechanic
• Automotive Technician I
• Automotive Mechanic

Moving up: Automotive Services

Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid-advanced level positions.

Example Career Ladder: