

Job One - High-Priority Occupations in Automotive Technology

To compete in today's global economy, America's business and industry needs a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. In the past, too many career & technical school curricula were not aligned with the economic needs and career opportunities – thus creating a shortage of workers in critical areas. In Pennsylvania, however, leaders in technical education, business & industry, and government have partnered to construct a new workforce development strategy that focuses training and education around the job categories most in demand. These categories are known as High-Priority Occupations (HPO).

Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center's Auto Mechanics Technology program prepares students for careers in rewarding occupations including:

- Auto Mechanics
- Service Managers
- Auto Technicians
- Transmission Technicians
- Parts Managers
- Insurance Adjusters
- Automotive Salespersons
- Warranty Clerks
- Diesel Mechanics
- Independent Shop Owners



What is SOAR?

Students Occupationally and Academically Ready (SOAR) is the career and technical Program of Study (POS). This educational plan articulates the secondary career and technical programs to postsecondary degrees, or diploma or certificate programs. These career and technical Programs of Study include a statewide articulation agreement partnership between secondary schools and postsecondary institutions.



Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center provides career education and training for students in grades 10-12 residing in the following school districts:

- Burrell School District •
- Franklin Regional School District •
- Kiski Area School District •
- New Kensington-Arnold School District •

For more information contact:



Northern Westmoreland
Career & Technology Center

705 Stevenson Blvd. • New Kensington, PA 15068
724.335.9389 • www.nwctc.k12.pa.us

Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, sex, handicap, or because a person is a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. Activities, services, or facilities are accessible to handicapped persons. This policy of nondiscrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publications of the policy is in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries should be directed to the Administrative Director at 724-335-9389 or written to 705 Stevenson Blvd., New Kensington, PA 15068.



Northern Westmoreland
Career & Technology Center

Auto Mechanics
Technology

Auto Mechanics

at Northern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center



Technology plays a key role in the auto repair industry, and NWCTC incorporates industry-standard equipment into every level of the curriculum.

Main Curricular Components:

- Engine Repair
- Steering & Suspensions
- Brake Replacement & Alignment
- Computer Diagnostics & Testing
- Tune-Ups
- Fuel & Electrical Systems
- Drive-Train, Axles & Transmissions
- Engine Performance

Academic Requirements:

- Algebra I & II
- Geometry
- College Prep English
- Science

Postsecondary Education:

Auto Mechanics Technology students receive on-the-job training in an apprenticeship program with local dealerships and automotive repair businesses. Many NWCTC graduates advance their training and qualifications in 2-year or 4-year postsecondary schools.

Certifications Available:

- NOCTI
- OSHA
- Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)
- Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)



Co-Op: Get “Real” About Your Education:

NWCTC’s unique co-op program integrates classroom study with supervised, practical work experience. Students in their senior year have the opportunity to go into an actual work environment and apply their technical training. Students must meet specific qualifications to be eligible.

Did you know that today’s average automobile has 40 microprocessors? Advanced automotive technology like this calls for a higher level of training — and that’s exactly what NWCTC’s Auto Mechanics Technology program delivers! With a program of study that integrates industry-standard technology and hands-on training with real-world work experience, Auto Mechanics Technology prepares students for entry-level employment. The program is operated just like an actual auto shop, where students are given work orders and are expected to work independently to achieve certain tasks. First-year students

focus on core curricular components including brakes, safety, minor suspensions and steering, and basic electrical systems. A heavy emphasis is placed on classroom learning and theory, as well as the safe use of equipment and tools. In their second year, students are challenged by a more hands-on, task-oriented curriculum which includes engine performance, emission controls, ignition systems, advanced brake systems including alignments, advanced electrical systems, diagnostic techniques, and more.

Students are required to pass 7 competency tests (including interviewing skills) before qualifying to participate in the co-op program during their senior year. The Technician III exam is designed to serve as an entry-level qualification that assures prospective employers that a student has the necessary fundamental skill-sets to work in the field. Auto Mechanics Technology is an ASE accredited program, and students are required to take four ASE Certification exams while at NWCTC.

FACT CHECK ✓

- ✓ **The ability to diagnose the source of a problem quickly and accurately requires good reasoning ability and a thorough knowledge of automobiles. Many technicians consider diagnosing hard-to-find troubles one of their most challenging and satisfying duties.**
- ✓ **For trainee automotive service technician jobs, employers look for people with strong communication and analytical skills. Technicians need good reading, mathematics, and computer skills to study technical manuals.**
- ✓ **ASE certification has become a standard credential for automotive service technicians. Certification is available in eight different areas of automotive service.**
- ✓ **The increasing use of advanced technology in automobiles will also lead to new opportunities for repair technicians, especially those with specialized skills or certifications.**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Career Guide To Industries, 2010-11 Edition.

