



Education Needed

Minimum Education = High School Diploma

Most Employers Require a Certificate from a Technical College

Technical College certificate programs are a mix of classroom instruction with hands-on training. It usually takes 6 months to 2 years to complete.

To earn certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) mechanics must have two years' work experience and pass one or more ASE exams.

Essential Skills and Duties

1. Being Safety-oriented
2. Being Present, On-time, and Well Rested before Your Shift
3. Listening and Being a Team Player
4. Learning New Technology
5. Training and having Certification
6. Having Good Computer Skills

TCHS Graduates Who Are Diesel Mechanics

Javon Sallie

A Day in the Life of a Mechanic

Mechanic and Diesel Engine Specialists inspect, repair, or overhaul buses, trucks, and anything else with a diesel engine.

As a Diesel Mechanic, you will handle many kinds of repairs. You will be responsible for maintaining a vehicle's electrical system, making major engine repairs, or retrofitting engines with emission control systems to comply with pollution regulations. As engines become increasingly complex, you will find that you use more electronic systems to control engine operations. For example, fuel injection and engine timing systems rely heavily on microprocessors to maximize fuel efficiency. In most shops, mechanics use hand-held or laptop computers to diagnose problems and adjust engine functions. You will use a variety of power and machine tools, such as pneumatic wrenches, lathes, grinding machines, and welding equipment. Hand tools—including pliers, wrenches, and screwdrivers—are also commonly used. Employers typically provide expensive power tools and computerized equipment, but as a mechanic, you will probably acquire your own hand tools over time.

You can expect to work in well-ventilated, but sometimes noisy, repair shops. You may have to repair vehicles on roadsides or at multiple worksites. Your work schedule will probably be full time, and may include over time and evening shifts.

Job Openings

Greater than Average

Growth Rate: 14%

Salary Expectations

Starting = \$28,000

Average = \$44,000

Top = \$63,000

Jobs In This Career

