Automotive Technologies

Associate in Applied Science in Technical Studies

Program Description:
The Technical Studies Degree, limited to high school students enrolled in the EDGE program, is designed to provide for cooperatively sponsored educational opportunities leading to the Associate in Applied Science degree and/or One-Year Certificate.

Mountwest Community & Technical College delivers educational programs in a variety of occupational fields to businesses and industries having an immediate need for such programs.

Components of the program include the following: general education, classroom instruction in a technical core and in the occupational area, and possible on-the-job training.

Technical Studies students must meet admission and performance standards. Credits earned through either the approved apprenticeship programs or through industry-based education and training programs will not be added to the student's collegiate transcript until the student has completed twelve program credit hours from Mountwest Community & Technical College and has obtained at least a 2.00 GPA.

Career Outlook:
Job opportunities in this occupation are expected to be very good for persons who complete automotive training programs in high school, vocational and technical schools, or community colleges. Persons with good diagnostic and problem-solving skills, and whose training includes basic electronics skills, should have the best opportunities. For well-prepared people with a technical background, automotive service technician careers offer an excellent opportunity for good pay and the satisfaction of highly skilled work with vehicles incorporating the latest in high technology. However, persons without formal automotive training are likely to face competition for entry-level jobs.

Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to increase as fast as the average through the year 2014. Through 2014, demand for technicians will grow as the number of vehicles in operation increases, reflecting continued growth in the number of multi-car families. Growth in demand will be offset somewhat by slowing population growth and the continuing increase in the quality and durability of automobiles, which will require less frequent service. Additional job openings will be due to the need to replace a growing number of retiring technicians, who tend to be the most experienced workers.

Salary Forecast:
Median hourly earnings of automotive service technicians and mechanics, including commission, were $16.24 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between $11.96 and $21.56. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $9.17, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $27.22. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of service technicians in 2004 were as follows:

- Local government, excluding schools $19.07
- Automobile dealers $18.85
- Gasoline stations $14.51
- Automotive repair and maintenance $14.55
- Automotive parts, accessories, and tire stores $14.38

(Information obtained from Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008-2009)

Employment Opportunities:
- Automotive technician
- Repair shop owner
Major Code - CT20 • Concentration Code - CT25

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COMPONENT III - TECHNICAL/OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITY

- Fundamentals of Automotive Technology (EDGE)
- Suspension and Steering Diagnosis (EDGE)
- Brakes (EDGE)
- Basic Engine Concepts (EDGE)

TOTAL COMPONENT III HOURS: 20

COMPONENT IV - (OPTIONAL) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN THE OCCUPATION (1-12 CREDIT HOURS MAY BE AWARDED)

A letter verifying completion of contact hours must be received by the Associate Dean’s Office, located in the Mountwest Community & Technical College Advising Center prior to applying for graduation for credit to be awarded. 160 clock hours equals 1 college credit hour.

HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 62

Program Admission Requirements:
The college adheres to an open admissions policy which means applicants with a high school diploma or a GED are eligible for admission. Applicants with neither a high school diploma nor a GED may be admitted on a conditional basis.

Vocational Site Partnership:
In addition, Mountwest Community & Technical College offers an Associate in Applied Science in Technical Studies in conjunction with its Vocational Site Partnerships at Technical Centers in Cabell, Mason, Putnam and Wayne counties, through EDGE.

Earn A Degree Graduate Early (EDGE):
This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

Contact Information:
Sumeeta Patnaik • Community College, Room 115
Phone: 304-696-3025 or 1-866-N-ROLLED (1-866-676-5533) • E-mail: patnaik1@mctc.edu

1. Students must complete a minimum of 3 credit hours with Mountwest Community & Technical College to establish academic residence.
2. ENL 115, ENL 231 and MK 210 have a prerequisite of ENL 111 or COM 111.
3. Six total Quantitative Skills/Laboratory Science Experience credits are required for Technical Studies Degree and General Education Core. At least one college-level mathematics course must be selected from: MAT 115, MAT 145, or MAT 150. Students may complete the six credit requirement with a second college-level mathematics course or select a laboratory science course from the following: SCI 110, SCI 120, or SCI 201.
4. Select from EC 102, SS 201, SS 210, or SS 215.
5. Required capstone course.
6. MG 202 has a prerequisite of MG 101.
7. Verification of completion of CTE classes with a score of 74% or better on the final exam must be forwarded to West Virginia Community and Technical College System in Charleston, by course instructor.