

What can you do with a major in Automotive Collision?

Campus(s) program is offered: Appalachian Campus

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?

- Body Repair Technicians
- Auto Shop Estimators
- Frame Technicians
- Spray Painters
- Collision Repair Technician
- Alignment Technician
- Collision parts and Material Sales Representative

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?

Students enjoy the satisfaction of starting with a damaged automobile then finishing with a vehicle that looks as though it has never been damaged.

What is the least?

Automotive Collision Repair is in most part a very physically demanding occupation.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

The salary is the most misconceived. Auto Body Technician pay on a national average ranks higher than a Tool and Die maker, an Electronics Technician, a Welder, a Carpenter, and a Heavy Truck Driver.

What are some essential skills and abilities a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?

- Mechanically inclined
- Detailed oriented
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Ability to use senses
- Motor ability
- Ability to communicate
- Problem solving
- Emotional stability
- Understand the need if a safe work environment

What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?

- Receive hands-on training in auto body repair, welding, safety features such as airbags, painting, steering, suspension, and many other aspects of collision repair
- The program also offers classroom instruction in safety and industry compliance

Typical work activities/occupational functions:

- Repairers work indoors in body shops where noise from the clatter of hammers against metal and the whine of power tools is prevalent
- Most shops are well ventilated to disperse dust and paint fumes
- Serious accidents usually are avoided when the shop is kept clean, orderly and safety is practiced

What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

Certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), although voluntary, is the pervasive industry credential for experienced automotive body repairers. Many repairers, particularly in urban areas, need a national certification to advance past entry-level work. Automotive body repairers must retake the examination at least every 5 years to retain their certification. Ongoing training through the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR) can lead to additional recognition as a Platinum technician. Finally, many vehicle manufacturers and paint manufacturers also have product certification programs that can advance a repairer's career.

Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

The Automotive Collision Repair program is a diploma level program. Prerequisite courses may transfer to another institution.

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

Work in awkward and cramped positions. Hazards Technicians will be exposed to burns, muscle strains, toxic chemical, and other injuries from handling heavy parts. Most automotive body repairers work a standard 40-hour week. More than 40 hours a week may be required when there is a backlog of repair work to be completed. This may include working on weekends.

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

Students are taught using the I-CAR Curriculum. Students are eligible for and encouraged to take I-CAR tests that will provide them with industry recognized training that will benefit their job potential. These tests are prepared for while in college, but are not required as there is a reduced cost involved as a student enrolled in the program.

Possible employment settings:

Small body shops, rental fleet companies, insurance companies, major car manufactures, automotive dealerships, refinish supply companies, collision equipment companies, automotive detail shops, truck collision repair shops, automotive restoration shops

Names of potential employers:

- AutoNation
- Rick Hendricks Chevrolet
- LYNX Services
- Gwinnett Place Honda
- Asbury Automotive Group
- ABRA Auto Body & Glass
- Cherokee Collision Center
- Larry's Body Shop
- R&R Body Shop
- Honda Carland
- Cherokee Toyota
- American Fire

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