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**Update Your Ase Certification At An Auto Mechanic School**

**By Andy West**

Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification sets the skilled mechanic apart from the amateur

grease monkey, allowing employers and customers alike to verify a mechanic's level of expertise. However, as automotive technology is continually changing, ASE certification needs to be updated periodically. Any good auto mechanic school will usually offer programs for mechanics who want not only to renew their certification, but also to stay on the cutting edge of automotive repair.

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, the non-profit organization that devised the ASE certification system, was founded in 1972. The organization and its certification system was established in order to enable consumers to easily recognize qualified mechanics, as recent years had seen a growing need for the establishment of standards in the field of auto mechanics. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence offers recognition as an "expert" to mechanics who pass at least one test and provide proof of at least two years' relevant work experience. There are more than 40 tests, each corresponding to a specific area of expertise. In order to maximize one's salary and value to an employer, mechanics are advised to become certified in as many specific areas as possible.

Part of the need for standards in the automotive field is due to the field's constant state of flux: automotive technology is constantly changing and becoming more complicated. As a result, each ASE certification must be updated every five years. This means that in order to retake the certification tests, a mechanic must be knowledgeable about any changes or advancements in automotive technology during the past five years. Auto mechanic school provides an easy forum for mechanics to continue their education and maintain their ASE certifications.

Auto mechanic school has always offered beginning automotive students a way to learn the trade and earn their ASE certifications. Curriculums are dedicated to ensuring that students fully understand and have experience with the subject matter of each test. The programs offered in auto mechanic school aren't just for beginners, however. Most good automotive schools offer programs for continuing education to established mechanics. These courses may range from a refresher course for reviewing the subject material that will be addressed on the test, to a more detailed briefing on recent changes in automotive technology. Some courses may also be geared toward established mechanics who do not

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currently have any ASE certifications, but would like to, without having to go through the entire degree program.

ASE certification reassures your customers that you are an expert in the field, much as the "Ph.D." after your doctor's name reassures you that she knows what she is doing; and just as in your doctor's field, continuing education is the cornerstone of a mechanic's business. Frequently updated ASE certifications relay to customers and employers that the mechanic knows the most recent advancements in the field, ensuring quality work even on the newest of cars. As a result of the regulations put in place by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence, auto mechanic school caters not only to beginners, but to returning students and experienced mechanics as well.

Andy West is a freelance writer for VC Tech, The Automotive School. VC Tech is a world-class auto mechanic school offering many exciting automotive programs. Please visit

<http://www.vctechnical.com>

to learn more.

### **Saving For Auto Mechanic School**

**By Andy West**

Time has passed, and the same old crummy job greets you each day as it has for the past several years. When will life change its fortunes towards you? The answer to this question is when you decide to save money, and go to auto mechanic school. Attending school is not an easy task for one that has a family, with bills to pay, and therefore it is necessary for one to save enough money before attending auto mechanic school.

While creating a budget might not be a strong point for the family, it is one way to save for auto mechanic school, and catapult your career to the next level. Unfortunately for most, no one will simply provide for one to go to auto mechanic school, it is one of those things that requires cash, and free cash for most Americans requires saving money. This is why creating a budget is so important. With a fixed budget and some discipline, a small fortune can be saved in a less than a year for most working professionals.

Creating a budget won't be easy, and takes a focused effort and strategic planning to make happen. Attending auto mechanic school most likely will depend on your personal ability to create and abide by a budget. Attending a training program is something that takes work, and must be made a priority. When creating a budget for your auto mechanic school fund, simply look at what costs can be cut. Treat your auto mechanic school budget as a business with a bill each month that must be paid. This will help put the concept of saving into perspective, and allow you to look at the auto mechanic school savings as a third party.

For example, you love doughnuts and coffee, and have decided that you can save nearly \$10 a week by not eating at the doughnut shop for breakfast every morning. You should look at this cut back as

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one step closer to achieving your goal to attend auto mechanic school. Thinking about the new budget in a positive light will greatly enhance the experience, and help you to keep going towards your goal of attending auto mechanic school.

Creative budgeting is another way to save for auto mechanic school. Utilizing creative budgeting will make it easier, and more feasible to attend auto mechanic school sooner than one would think possible. Creative budgets are ones that are created around unique ideas that will allow for the saving of money through the replacement of paid activities with free ones. An example of creative budgeting would be to stop spending \$10 at the video store each week, and rent movies from the library for free, and put that \$40 a month towards auto mechanic school tuition instead. By doing this, one will save the money needed for attending school.

While most people look at budgeting as a negative, or repressive act that is not fun to engage in, others that love to save money look at it as a way of life. If you stop thinking like the former, and start to believe in the latter, auto mechanic school is not but a few months of saving away. Even for those that don't earn a substantial income, it is all about saving. Whatever is saved, can be used towards auto mechanic school, which often offers a tuition payment plan for those that need it.

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