

## NATURE OF WORK

Auto body technicians repair cars and trucks by straightening and replacing damaged sections. The technician measures the unibody and frame damage to determine a correct method of repair. They can also repair small dents and paint problems. Technicians use their knowledge of how an automobile is constructed and the extent of the damage to determine how to proceed with repairs. Some technicians specialize in particular areas of the auto body trade, such as; fiberglass and semi-truck repair.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

A 40-hour work week is common. The work, as a rule, is done in well lighted and ventilated shops. A technicians' work is often strenuous and dirty. Today's modern shops require technicians to have their own tools and a good work ethic. Technicians must keep their work areas clean and orderly to help prevent job related accidents.

## TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Employers prefer to hire technicians who have completed formal training programs in automotive body repair, but since these programs only supply a portion of employers' needs they will consider people who only have a high school diploma or a GED. Most new technicians receive a lot of on-the-job training, supplemented with short-term training sessions given by vehicle, parts, and equipment manufacturers. Technicians new to the trade may receive low salaries until they are knowledgeable enough to be placed on an incentive program for faster work completion.

## JOB OUTLOOK

Careers in automotive body repair are expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2018. Job opportunities for people with formal training will be excellent, while those without training will have a lot of competition for these jobs. The demand for qualified body technicians will increase as the number of motor vehicles in operation continues to grow with the Nation's population.

### For further information go to:

[www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp](http://www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp)  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos180.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos180.htm)  
[www.khake.com/pages11.html](http://www.khake.com/pages11.html)

## CAREER OPTIONS

Automotive Body Technicians

## ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$26,300 - \$57,000  
Helper—\$20,000—\$24,000  
Nationally — \$27,480 - \$51,312  
Helper—\$28,000—\$40,000

## RELATED OCCUPATIONS

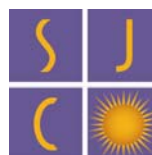
Automotive technician, diesel service technician, mechanic, auto damage insurance appraiser, painting and coating worker.

## SJC Basic Program Information

- This program requires students to purchase their own tools.
- A student must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses in order to receive a degree.



\*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011



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