

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 today require technicians to have their own tools and a good work ethic. They 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.

JOB OUTLOOK

Careers in automotive body repair are expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2016. 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.

CAREER OPTIONS

Automotive Body Technicians

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$26,300 - \$57,000

Nationally — \$27,500 - \$60,500

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.



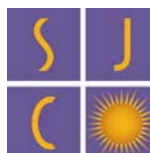
*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook—2008-2009

For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos180.htm



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