

Diesel Technology*

Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Career Cluster

(AAS Non-Transfer Degree)

(Light Line Certificate)

(Heavy Line Certificate)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Diesel technicians perform work on all aspects of diesel powered equipment including: electrical and electronic systems, hydraulic systems, drive trains, brake systems, and steering and suspension systems. Technicians work on a variety of equipment such as trucks, buses, locomotives, heavy vehicles and mobile equipment which may include: bulldozers, cranes, road graders, farm tractors and combines. Smaller equipment may include diesel-powered passenger automobiles, light trucks or boats. Diesel service technicians use a variety of tools in their work, including power tools, such as pneumatic wrenches. Technicians also use a variety of computerized testing equipment to pinpoint and analyze malfunctions in engines.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Though most of the work that diesel technicians do is performed indoors they may occasionally need to go onsite and make repairs to vehicles on the road. Technicians may lift heavy parts and tools, lie in awkward positions and handle greasy and dirty parts to repair vehicles and equipment. To counter-act this employers may provide showers and lockers for their employees. Usually technicians work in well-lighted, heated and ventilated areas, however, some shops can be drafty and noisy.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Though years of on-the-job training may qualify a person to become a diesel technician, authorities recommend the completion of a comprehensive, well rounded, diesel powered equipment training program. Employers prefer to hire graduates of formal training programs because those workers have a head start on others and are able to advance quickly.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of diesel service technicians is expected to grow slower than the average for all occupations through the year 2018. Employment of diesel service technicians is expected to grow as freight transportation by truck increases. Because of the greater durability and economy of the diesel engine relative to the gasoline engine, buses and trucks of all sizes are expected to be increasingly powered by diesel engines. Persons entering this occupation can expect relatively steady work. Changes in economic conditions have less of an effect on the diesel repair business than on other sectors of the economy.

CAREER OPTIONS

Diesel Service Technician

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$28,000 - \$85,000

Nationally — \$30,100 - \$90,000

Farmington Mean Annual Wage—\$50,870

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Aircraft and avionics equipment and service technicians, automotive service technicians, heavy vehicle and mobile equipment service technicians, oilfield service equipment mechanics, and natural gas compression technicians, and small engine mechanics.

SJC Basic Program Information

- Students may enter this program at the beginning of any semester.
- Students must provide his/her own tools.
- A student must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses to receive a degree.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos182.htm

www.diesel.org



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

Reviewed on February 25, 2010