Whether you’re working on the engine of the latest Ferrari or a 1950’s Holden, your passion for the repair, maintenance and servicing of vehicles could mark the beginning of an exciting, rewarding and challenging career within the automotive industry.

Technology has transformed the contemporary motor vehicle not only with respect to design but also with regard to the sophisticated electronic and computerized equipment used to diagnose faults.

The high tech light vehicle motor mechanic of the 21st century has shed the “grease monkey” image and needs to be computer literate and skilled in the use of scan tools to extract information to aid in the repair of the vehicle which is probably the most sophisticated piece of machinery that we use on a daily basis.

Today’s motor mechanic is skilled in the use of electronics and computer testing and is highly sought after given the current shortage in all areas of the automotive industry. Offering job stability as well as self employment options your training in the field of automotive mechanics is a passport to travel and healthy job prospects both within Australia and abroad.

With some further training students may follow other career paths within the industry including auto electrician, panel beater or vehicle painter.
The scope of the light vehicle mechanic

The need to have mechanics with knowledge, skills and qualifications to service, repair and maintain modern vehicles requires apprentices to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Students are required to complete 36 units and their competency is determined based on the evidence collected on both their “on-the-job” and “off-the-job” performance.

Mechanics are responsible for the service and repair of motor vehicles including undertaking work on engine transmissions, differentials, steering, suspension, brakes, wheels and tyres.

The stunning advances in technology have made this process more high tech with the use of scan tools. Judging the readings from this equipment enables the mechanic to make an informed analysis of the problem and results in the appropriate service and repair being undertaken.

Given the increasingly mobile society of which we are a part more people need to operate vehicles and have regular services and maintenance carried out to ensure that vehicles are in good repair. This in turn creates a situation where there is an ongoing increase in the demand for highly skilled motor mechanics who are competent in both the mechanical and electronic aspects of vehicle maintenance.

What qualifications in light duty automotive studies offer you

The pre-apprenticeship qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to service and repair mechanical parts of motor vehicles. You will learn skills in servicing engines, cooling systems, clutches, transmissions, brakes, final drives, steering, and suspensions. You will also learn how to test, service and replace batteries. As part of this qualification you will undertake a supervised work placement where you will be able to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned.

The apprenticeship qualification will provide you with the ability to overhaul/repair engines and do diagnostic work on the high tech modern motor care. You will use imaging systems to check voltage, resistance, capacitance and temperature of the computerised sensors and operating systems of the motor car.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship course provides you with the opportunity to gain an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic for light vehicles. You will need to be employed and registered as an apprentice before you can commence apprenticeship training.

Motor mechanics may seek employment with new motor vehicle dealers, repairers and service stations.

Some mechanics with an entrepreneurial flair may choose to establish and operate their own business.

Light vehicle motor mechanics may advance their careers and secure employment positions such as service manager, technical sales representative, technical officer or diagnostic specialist.

Entry requirements

Certificate I in Automotive
(Pre-Apprentice Mechanical – Vehicle Servicing –Light Automotive)

Certificate IV or Diploma of Automotive Technology

Further study options

Further information

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