

CAREER LINKS



Career Development Center

Conversations about Career Success...with Faculty



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What was your college major?

I have three college degrees – Bachelor of Arts in History and Biology, Master of Arts in History, and Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology with a focus on education.

Did this major lead you to your current career?

Following my college graduation, I worked part-time in a job that was not satisfying. It was then that I decided to return to school and pursue a graduate degree in history. Soon after I began working on cars. Through my own personal self-discovery process of working and completing several degrees, I became more aware of myself and what I was good at. My personal insight helped me to decide that getting another degree specializing in industrial technology with an emphasis in education was truly where my greatest talents were.

What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?

Most successful students and employees in the industry are those who are dependable, honest and willing to continue to learn. Ninety percent of employers rank dependability as their #1 requirement. Individuals must be on time and at school/work because their absence

affects productivity for the entire team. It is not uncommon for an individual to lose their job because of excessive tardiness and absences. Honesty is paramount in this career field. Individuals need to do automotive work correctly and inquire whenever uncertainty arises because mistakes cost money and can have a major impact on productivity and reputation. Being adaptable is a must because cars and the technology used to repair them constantly change and improve.

Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.

1. Be willing to work in places that are sometimes hot, cold and dirty.
2. Being dependable is a must.
3. Be able to solve problems or know where to find the answers.

What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?

Students will learn how all the components of automobiles work. This is of vital importance because in order to fix the mechanical parts, a good working knowledge of how a vehicle operates is a fundamental requirement. Students will also learn about electricity, computers and troubleshooting strategies.

For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?

Most students interested in automotive technology benefit from part-time jobs as entry-level positions in auto repair businesses that are independently owned, franchise-based, or part of a car dealership. Businesses that offer specialized auto services, e.g., oil changes, mufflers, tires, are additional employment options.

If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?

Retail auto parts stores can afford students with getting beneficial experience to develop the critical qualifications most desired by prospective employers—dependability, customer service skills, and teamwork.

Is there a selection process for entering this program?

Although there is no selective admissions process for the JCCC automotive technology program, the training and curriculum that a student receives at JCCC is foundational for transferability to 4-year institutions (e.g., Pittsburg State University, Central Missouri University) offering advanced study. JCCC's curriculum is based on national standards for automotive technology. Students interested in learning more about transferring to a 4-year institution should speak with a counselor in the Counseling Center.