



DIESEL TECHNICIAN

What They Do

Diesel Technicians diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul equipment including trucks, buses, farm machinery, construction equipment, and other heavy equipment. In addition to the diesel engine systems found on such equipment, technicians also perform these tasks on non-engine systems including transmissions & drivetrain, electrical & electronics, hydraulics & pneumatics, and air conditioning systems.

Job Earnings (U.S. BLS Website)

Mean Annual Salary:
Bus and Truck Mechanics:
\$52,090/year
Farm Equipment Mechanics:
\$45,350/year
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics: \$57,000/year

Job Outlook (U.S. BLS Website)

According to BLS Website in 2020, there were 253,010 bus & truck technicians, 147,680 heavy equipment technicians, and 35,720 farm equipment technicians in the U.S.

In NYS there are 15,120 technicians and the anticipated growth rate for these jobs over the next 10 years is 3%.

Job Duties

- Perform routine maintenance on diesel powered equipment
- Diagnose and troubleshoot systems using knowledge and diagnostic test equipment
- Perform repairs on system components
- Inspect machines for potential issues to prevent downtime
- Inspect machines for safety concerns
- Generate customer quotes based on estimated repair times and cost of parts
- Write up work order details for customers as well as manufacturer warranty claims
- Participate in continuing education/training
- Assist with normal shop cleanup and maintenance tasks
- Account for all time and materials used on each job

Education/Training

Some diesel service technicians learn on the job after a high school education; however, employers increasingly prefer applicants who have completed postsecondary training programs in agricultural power machinery or diesel technology.

In addition, industry certifications are important including ASE Automotive, AED Heavy Equipment, OSHA 10HR Safety and EPA 609 air conditioning certification.

DIESEL TECHNICIAN – CAREER PATHWAY

Steps to Prepare for YOUR Future Career!

1

Middle/High School Classes to Take:

- Agriculture/Shop/Technology
- Math
- Physics
- English

2

Clubs/Extracurricular Activities:

- 4-H (4-h.org)
- FFA (www.FFA.org)
- SkillsUSA (www.SkillsUSA.org)

3

Local BOCES/Career & Technical Education Programs:

- Agricultural Mechanics
- Automotive Technology
- Conservation & Heavy Equipment Technology
- Diesel Technology
- Heavy Equipment Repair and Operations
- Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
- Welding

4

Work-Based Learning:

- Work Experience & Career Exploration Program
- Cooperative CTE Work Experience Program
- General Education Work Experience Program
- Career Exploration Internship Program

5

Local Colleges/ Degree Majors:

- SUNY Cobleskill (www.Cobleskill.edu)
 - Agricultural Equipment Technology, B.T.
 - Agricultural Power Machinery, A.A.S.
 - Diesel Technology, A.A.S.
- SUNY Morrisville (www.Morrisville.edu)
 - Agricultural Engineering Technology, A.A.S.
 - Diesel Equipment Technology, A.A.S./A.O.S.
- SUNY Alfred (www.alfredstate.edu)
 - Heavy Equipment, Truck & Diesel Technician, A.O.S.