

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FOR NEW AUTOMOBILE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

In an effort to certify its automotive repair program, Job Corps has redesigned the former Automotive Repair Technician program and developed the new Automobile Technician training program. The most critical action in the redesigning efforts was the alignment of the Automobile Technician program standards, which are outlined on the Training Achievement Records, with certification standards identified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that Job Corps' Automobile Technician programs attain ASE/NATEF program certifications
- To better prepare Job Corps students for careers within the automotive industry

ASE/NATEF'S STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

Job Corps is committed to helping its Automobile Technician training programs attain ASE program certification before February 1, 2007. Programs that are not prepared to attain ASE Automobile Technician Training program certifications within this time frame will seek ASE General Service Technician (GST) program certification. Provided below are descriptions of both program certifications.

General Service Technician (GST) Certification

In 2003, ASE and NATEF developed the GST program certification to address the industry need for entry-level technicians with a broad range of technical skills. The program certification covers basic skills in seven technical specialty areas with an emphasis on the first four areas: Brakes; Electrical/Electronic Systems; Engine Performance; Suspension and Steering; Engine Repair; Manual Drive Train and Axles; and Heating and Air Conditioning. Programs seeking this certification must establish an articulation agreement with a post-secondary training program that is an ASE-certified Automobile Technician Training program.

Automobile Technician Training Certifications

ASE and NATEF offer Automobile Technician Training program certifications in eight technical specialty areas: Brakes; Suspension and Steering; Engine Performance; Electrical and Electronics; Automobile Transmission and Transaxle; Engine Repair; Heating and Air Conditioning; and Manual Drive Train and Axles. A program that

attains all eight specialty certifications is designated a master-certified program. However, programs have two additional options for attaining Automobile Technician program certifications. Automobile Technician programs can be considered stand-alone programs, meaning they must be able to meet the minimum requirements for the four required areas of Brakes; Electrical/Electronic Systems; Engine Performance; and Suspension and Steering. Programs can also pursue the traditional articulation option that allows programs to certify in Electrical/Electronic Systems (required) and at least one other required automobile specialty area on-center, and articulate with another ASE-certified program that provides instruction in at least the other two required areas. Note: The four required specialty areas are Brakes; Electrical/Electronic Systems; Engine Performance; and Suspension and Steering.

Designation of Program Certification

Based on assessments by industry representatives, the National Office of Job Corps has designated a target program certification for each existing program (Reference Attachment B, Designation of ASE/NATEF Program Certifications). Each Job Corps center will have until April 1, 2006 (for centers that attended training in December 2005), or May 1, 2006 (for centers that attended training in January 2006), to request an alternative ASE program certification with the National Office of Job Corps. All requests must be supported by the center's Automotive Advisory Committee and approved by both the National Office of Job Corps and the appropriate Regional Office.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Automobile Technician training programs must address the following program requirements:

1. **Advisory Committee** – NATEF/ASE requires every Automobile Technician training program to establish an Advisory Committee to assist with certification and continuous improvement efforts. Details regarding the composition and operation of the Advisory Committee are outlined in the ASE/NATEF Program Certification Manual, Program Standard 2.5.
2. **Certification Standards-Based Training Achievement Records (TARs)**
All Automobile Technician programs will have until July 1, 2006, to implement new TARs.
3. **ASE Certification for Instructors** – For GST program certification, all instructors must achieve and maintain ASE individual certifications in the areas of Brakes; Electrical/Electronics; Engine Performance; and Steering/Suspension before seeking GST program certification.

For Automobile Technician program certifications, instructors must have ASE instructor certification for each area their training program covers on the center.

4. **Career Interest and Aptitude Tests** – ASE/NATEF requires the use of formal skills assessment instruments to ensure that students have the aptitude to succeed as automobile technicians. The Automobile Technician training program requires the implementation of quality, user-friendly career interest tests and aptitude tests. Centers are encouraged to consider the resources at the Job Corps Career Development Resource Center) Web site (<http://jccdr.c.jobcorps.gov>) and explore other testing tools, such as the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Ability Test or the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB).
5. **Higher Academic Requirement for Enrollment** – Rapid technological advances in the automotive industry has resulted in an increased demand for stronger competencies in reading, math, and communication skills (written and verbal). Industry representatives suggest that Job Corps students achieve 7th grade competency in reading, math, and writing before being admitted into the Automobile Technician training program. The National Office of Job Corps strongly recommends that students attain Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) scores (Forms 7 and 8, level M) at 541 for reading and 536 for math to qualify for admission into the Automobile Technician training program.
6. **Applied Academics** – ASE/NATEF requires an effective system for contextual learning to support instruction of the Automobile Technician curricula. All centers that offer Automobile Technician training program are required to develop and implement an applied academics system to meet this ASE/NATEF requirement. -In March 2006, ASE tentatively plans to release updated applied academic skill standards. It is anticipated that an Applied Academics TAR, containing these standards, will be available by June 2006. In the meantime, the current applied academic standards can be used as a resource.
7. **Group Scheduling** – Industry representatives and the Office of Job Corps strongly recommend the use of a small group scheduling approach for the Automobile Technician Training Program. Utilizing this approach, instructors deliver course content to cohorts of students who enter the program as small groups throughout the year and progress together to program completion.

ASE/NATEF PROGRAM CERTIFICATION MANUAL

The National Office of Job Corps has developed an ASE/NATEF Program Certification Manual to assist Automobile Technician training programs with attaining designated ASE/NATEF program certifications. The manual outlines the 10 program standards issued by ASE/NATEF, followed by detailed instructions on how to meet them.

Standards 1 through 9 are required for GST and Automobile Technician Training program certifications. Standard 10 is optional.

The ASE/NATEF Certification Manual can be found at <http://jccdr.c.jobcorps.gov>.

TARS FOR NEW AUTOMOBILE TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

ASE/NATEF Program Certification	TAR Name	O*NET Code
GST	Automobile Technician – General Service Technician (GST)	85302JA
Automobile Technician Training	Automobile Technician – Electrical/ Electronic System	85302JB
	Automobile Technician – Brakes	85302JC
	Automobile Technician – Engine Performance	85302JD
	Automobile Technician – Suspension and Steering	85302JE
	Automobile Technician – Automatic Transmission and Transaxle	85302JF
	Automobile Technician – Engine Repair	85302JG
	Automobile Technician – Heating and Air Conditioning	85302JH
Automobile Technician – Manual Drive Train and Axles	85302JI	