

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN (AST 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Occupation Description

“Automotive Service Technician” (AST) is a person who repairs, adjusts and replaces mechanical, electrical and electronic parts of automobiles and light trucks in a retail automotive business. “Retail automotive business” means a business whose primary mechanical repair work is repairing and adjusting vehicles whose gross vehicle weight is less than 5,500 kg.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the ITA website.

Pathways to Certification

AST is a single program offering certification at four progressive levels. In BC, an individual can become certified as an Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 by completing the Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 levels or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them, and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Foundation programs, where available, provide adults and youth who do not have work experience or employer sponsorship with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the occupation. Individuals who wish to enroll in a Foundation program must register directly with the training provider.

There are multiple pathways available to the apprentice to achieve certification, as shown in the table below.

Outcome	Completion Requirements
1. Progress through AST 1, 2, 3 & 4 levels and achieve AST (AST 4) certification with Red Seal endorsement. Apprentice receives one Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful achievement of technical training at AST 1, 2, 3 & 4 • Pass the AST 1, 2 & 3 Standardized Certificate of Qualification exams at each level • Write the AST 4 Standardized Written Exam • Pass the AST Interprovincial Red Seal exam • Report a total of 6,000 hours of work-based training • Have your Sponsor sign and return a Recommendation for Certification form for your certification as a Red Seal AST (AST 4)
2. Progress through AST 1, 2, 3 and 4 and achieve certification as an AST 1, 2, 3 and an AST (AST 4) with Red Seal endorsement. Apprentice receives four Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful achievement of technical training at AST 1, 2, 3 & 4 • Pass the AST 1, 2 & 3 Standardized Certificate of Qualification exams at each level • Write the AST 4 Standardized Written Exam • Pass the AST Interprovincial Red Seal exam • Report the required number of work-based training hours for each level

Outcome	Completion Requirements
	<p>(for example, 1,500 hours for AST 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your Sponsor sign and return a Recommendation for Certification (RFC) form when you complete the requirements for each level. You should report hours regularly to ITA so that a record is kept of the hours required to trigger the RFC to be sent to your employer. On receipt of a signed RFC from your employer a certificate will be issued to you. Should you choose not to report hours regularly then an RFC will not be issued and certification will only be issued for the appropriate level relevant to the hours reported at that time. For example, should you choose to report hours for the first time when you reach 3,000 hours, you will only be able to claim certification for AST 2 and not AST 1, as ITA will have no record of when the completion requirements for AST 1 were achieved.
<p>3. Exit the program at the AST 1, AST 2 or AST 3 level and receive certification at that level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful achievement of technical training at the level you want to become certified at (e.g., AST 1, 2 or 3) • Pass the Certification of Qualification exam for the level you want to become certified at, and each level below it. For example, to become certified as an AST 2, you must pass the AST 1 and AST 2 exams • Report the required number of work-based training hours for the level you want to become certified at (e.g. 1,500 hours for AST 1, 3,000 hours for AST 2, and 4,500 hours for AST 3) • Have your Sponsor sign and return a Recommendation for Certification form for the level you want to become certified at

Recommended Education

The following education is recommended for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 12 or equivalent including English 12, Apprenticeship & Workplace Math, or Trade Mathematics 11 and Applied Physics, or Science and Technology 11

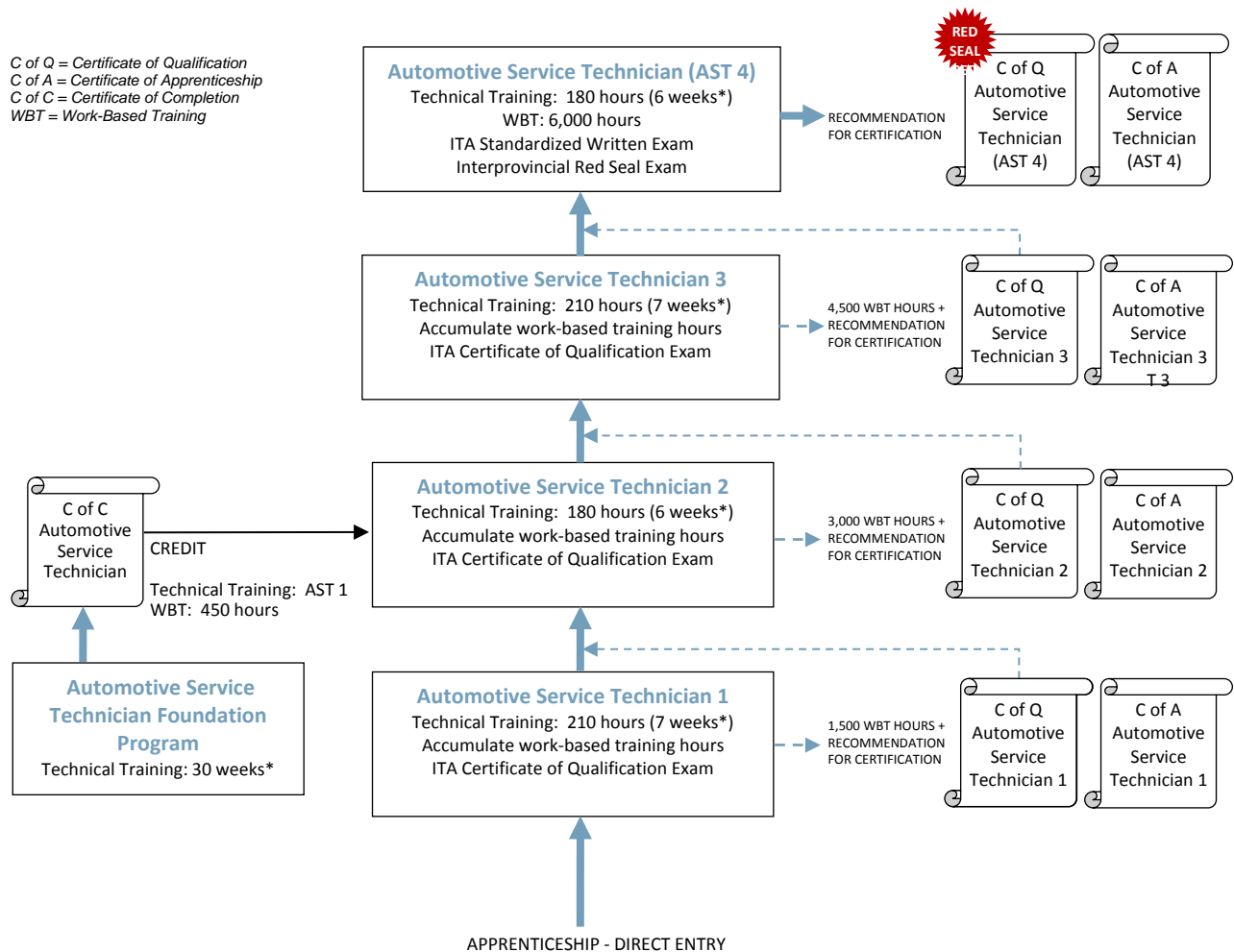
ITA Registration

Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in the Automotive Service Technician trade must register with ITA along with their sponsor. There is one single point of registration for the program. Application forms are available from the ITA website. Online registration is also available through the ITA website.

Those who wish to challenge the Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 certification must complete the Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 Challenge Application and submit it to ITA. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.

Apprenticeship Pathway

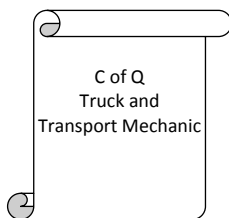
This graphic provides an overview of the Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship pathways.



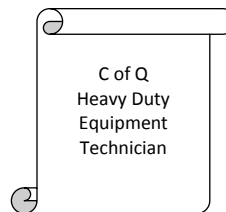
*Suggested duration based on 30-hour week

CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of these programs:



Technical Training: None
Work-Based Training: 1,500 hours*



Technical Training: None
Work-Based Training: 1,500 hours*

*Individuals who are holders of both certificates will only be awarded credit for 1,500 WBT hours total



Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

- Automotive Service Technician (Automotive Service Technician 4) – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement and Certificate of Apprenticeship*
- Automotive Service Technician 3 – Certificate of Qualification and Certificate of Apprenticeship*
- Automotive Service Technician 2 – Certificate of Qualification and Certificate of Apprenticeship*
- Automotive Service Technician 1 – Certificate of Qualification and Certificate of Apprenticeship*

*Each credential is awarded if a signed Recommendation for Certification is received for that level from your Sponsor. If you wish to receive certification for AST 1, 2 or 3, you must successfully complete the requirements for that level and have your Sponsor submit a Recommendation for Certification for that level.

ITA Registration Prerequisites

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice

Completion Requirements

Individuals may request Certification as an Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 or AST (AST 4) upon successful completion of the requirements for each level described below.

Note: Apprentices must write and pass (achieve minimum 70%) the Automotive Service Technician Certificate of Qualification exam for each level before they will be permitted to write the next progressive Certificate of Qualification exam. For example, you must pass the AST 1 exam to be eligible to write AST 2.

	Requirement and Minimum Level of Achievement	Credential Awarded
AST 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AST 1 Technical Training (210 hours or 7 weeks**): Minimum 70% ▪ Work-based Training: 1,500 hours ▪ AST 1 Certificate of Qualification Exam: Minimum 70% ▪ Recommendation for Certification: Signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automotive Service Technician 1 – Certificate of Qualification ▪ Automotive Service Technician 1 – Certificate of Apprenticeship
AST 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass AST 1 technical training and AST 1 Standardized Certificate of Qualification Exam ▪ AST 2 Technical Training (180 hours or 6 weeks**): Minimum 70% ▪ Work-based Training: 3,000 hours ▪ AST 2 Certificate of Qualification Exam: Minimum 70% ▪ Recommendation for Certification: signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automotive Service Technician 2 – Certificate of Qualification ▪ Automotive Service Technician 2 – Certificate of Apprenticeship



Apprenticeship Program Standards

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| AST 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass AST 1 and AST 2 technical training and AST 1 and AST 2 Standardized Certificate of Qualification Exams ▪ AST 3 Technical Training (210 hours or 7 weeks^{**}): Minimum 70% ▪ Work-based Training: 4,500 hours ▪ AST 3 Certificate of Qualification Exam: Minimum 70% ▪ Recommendation for Certification: signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automotive Service Technician 3 – Certificate of Qualification ▪ Automotive Service Technician 3 – Certificate of Apprenticeship |
| AST (AST 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass AST 1, 2 and 3 technical training and AST 1, 2 and 3 Standardized Certificate of Qualification Exam ▪ AST 4 Technical Training (180 hours or 6 weeks^{**}) with ITA Standardized Written Exam: Minimum 70% ▪ Work-based Training: 6,000 hours ▪ Interprovincial Red Seal Exam: Minimum 70% ▪ Recommendation for Certification: signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automotive Service Technician (Automotive Service Technician 4) – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement ▪ Automotive Service Technician 4 – Certificate of Apprenticeship |

*(**Assuming 30 hours in school per week)*

Program Duration	<p>Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 4 years to complete.</p> <p>The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by an ITA-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.</p>
Sign-off Authority	<p>Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automotive Service Technician – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal Endorsement ▪ ITA-issued letter authorizing supervision and sign-off of apprentices in this occupation



Apprenticeship Program Standards

Challenging Certification The following certifications can be challenged for advanced placement in this program:

Certification Eligibility Criteria

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|-------|--|
| AST 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved Challenge Application ▪ 2,250 hours of Trade-Related Work Experience |
| AST 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved Challenge Application ▪ 2,250 hours (4,500 total) of Trade-Related Work Experience ▪ Automotive Service Technician 1 BC Certificate of Qualification or Documentation of credit for Automotive Service Technician Level 1 |
| AST 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved Challenge Application ▪ 2,250 hours (6,750 total) of Trade-Related Work Experience ▪ Automotive Service Technician 1 & 2 BC Certificate of Qualification or Documentation of credit for Automotive Service Technician Level 1 & 2 |

Note: Apprentices from another Canadian jurisdiction who can document achievement of AST Level 1, 2 or 3 are **not** required to write the AST 1, 2, 3 Certificate of Qualification examination as a prerequisite to entering the AST 1, 2, 3 or 4 apprenticeship program.

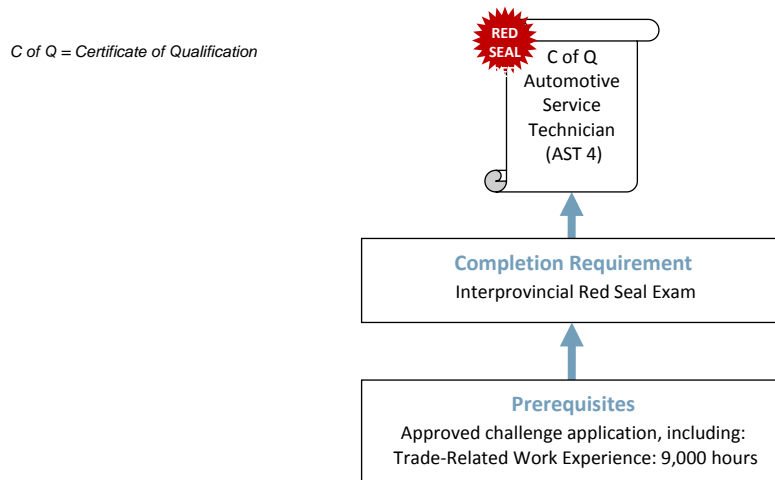
Cross-Program Credits Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of AST 1

Credential	Credit(s) Granted
Heavy Duty Equipment Technician – Certificate of Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: None ▪ Work-Based Training: 1,500 hours*
Truck and Transport Mechanic - Certificate of Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: None ▪ Work-Based Training: 1,500 hours*

*Individuals who are holders of both certificates will only be awarded credit for 1,500 WBT hours total.

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Automotive Service Technician challenge pathway.



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

Military certificate in Vehicle Technician MT #129 / #411, QL5 or higher

Work-Based Training: 9,000 hours

Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

Automotive Service Technician (Automotive Service Technician 4) – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement

ITA Registration Prerequisites

An approved Challenge Application, which includes:

- 9,000 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation (Hours must reflect minimum of 2,250 hours working at AST 4 program level)

Credit for Prior Learning

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met or partially met the requirements for challenging this program.

Credential

Credit(s) Granted

Military certificate in Vehicle Technician MT #129 / #411, QL5 or higher

- 9,000 workplace hours
- Approved Challenge Application

Completion Requirements

Certification as a Automotive Service Technician (AST 4) is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement

Level of Achievement Required

Interprovincial Red Seal Exam

- Minimum 70%



Supporting Documents

Automotive Service Technician (AST 4) Program Outline (2012) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. This single document includes full Program Outlines for Automotive Service Technician 1, 2, 3 and 4. Available from the ITA website.

Automotive Service Technician National Occupational Analysis (2009) – Prepared by industry experts, under the guidance of the federal government, for Red Seal trades to define the national standard of competence for the trade. Available from the Red Seal website: www.red-seal.ca.

Contacts

The **Industry Training Authority** (ITA) manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact ITA Customer Service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011
Website: www.itabc.ca

Fax: 778-328-8701
Email: customerservice@itabc.ca

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved:	March 2002 (ITAC)
Updated:	September 2006 (ITA)
Updated:	June 2008 (ITA)
Updated:	November 2008 (ITA)
Updated:	January 2009 (ITA)
Updated:	July 2009 (ITA)
Updated:	May 2012 (ITA)
Updated:	July 2012 (ITA)
Updated:	December 2012

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.itabc.ca for the most current version.