

FAQs About Rio Hondo's New 4-Year Degree – Automotive Technology

Rio Hondo College on May 18, 2015 received final approval from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to offer a bachelor's degree program in Automotive Technology. Here are answers to several questions prospective students may have about the program.

Q. When will classes begin?

A. A freshman cohort of 20 students in the Automotive Technology program will begin in Fall 2015. Students will have the option to complete a supplemental application as a pre-major (just like at other 4-year colleges and universities) starting July 2015.

In Fall 2016, Rio Hondo will start offering the junior-level (300 level) courses in the Automotive Technology program, as well as the upper-division general education courses. Admission will be open to students who hold a two-year Automotive Technology degree and meet required prerequisites.

Q. What happens now?

A. Rio Hondo College is developing the curriculum working with subject matter experts. Once developed, it will be submitted for state approval. At the same time, the Automotive Technology program is being submitted to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges through the substantial change process.

Rio Hondo College will post its admission criteria on its website in starting July 1, 2015. Students can start applying to the program thereafter. The first cohort of students will be accepted in July, to begin freshman classes in the Fall, 2015.

Q. Who is eligible to apply?

A. New students applying to this program will begin as freshmen in Fall 2015. Current students in Rio Hondo College's existing Automotive Technology associate degree program can apply for admittance as pre-majors. Industry professionals who are previous graduates of Automotive Technology programs and who possess certification as a Automotive Technician are eligible to apply to the Automotive Technology program starting July 1, 2015.

Q. Are there limits on how many students will be accepted?

A. The program will enroll 20 students each fall. There is no limit for undergraduate/freshman students. The program will enroll 20 students for upper division (300 level) class starting Fall 2016.

Q. How much is this going to cost students?

A. Students will complete 60 units of lower-division coursework at \$46 per unit. Students enrolled in upper-division coursework will pay an additional \$84 per unit, for a total of \$130 per unit. In total, the cost of the four-year program, not including books and other expenses, would be approximately \$10,500.

Q. Is Rio Hondo College equipped to house such a program?

A. Absolutely. The baccalaureate program will be offered through the College's Career and Technical Education, an instructional division of the college. Students will take classes in the state-of-the-art Automotive Technology Facility. The \$16 million, state-of-the-art, NATEF certified building comprises 20,000 square feet of training, laboratory and classroom space. The college has worked in collaboration with its industry automotive partners to secure placement sites to support the program requirements.

Q. Why did Rio Hondo College choose this degree?

A. Rio Hondo College is well known for its comprehensive Automotive Technology programs. For the past 50 years, it has offered a fully accredited associate degree program in Automotive Technology. No other public institution in the state currently offers this four-year degree.

Q. What is the employment outlook for Automotive Technology graduates?

A. Baccalaureate degree holders in Automotive Technology are needed by transportation, highway, mass transit, rail, and aviation systems are vital to Rio Hondo's regional economy. Southern California is also a major center of design, technical and marketing firms for automotive and related industries from all over the world. The Los Angeles/Orange County region is the North American home for nearly all of the Asian automakers, including Toyota/Lexus, Honda/Acura, Mazda, Isuzu, Mitsubishi, Kia, and Hyundai. Research and design/development

companies include the above listed manufacturers, plus BMW, Ford, GM, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, and Volvo.

Many specialty/aftermarket equipment firms have also located in the region, including more than 400 other independent new and aftermarket parts manufacturers. The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)—the trade group for aftermarket firms - is based in nearby Diamond Bar. Auto manufacturing and wholesale industries in the Southern California region represent more than 300 establishments with over 10,000 employees. In the Los Angeles/Orange County region, more than 3,000 vehicle dealerships employ more than 60,000 individuals. Automotive support industries - including auto parts and tire dealers, and auto service and repair/maintenance companies - consist of over 8,000 establishments with more than 50,000 employees.

Regional LMI Data and Gaps

Southern California is the center of a variety of automotive/transportation related industries due, in part, to its unique infrastructure offering seaports for importing, rail heads, commercial air transportation hubs, and a freeway culture. As the table below indicates, nearly 15,000 automotive/ transportation establishments in Southern California employ over 159,000 persons

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Employment
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers Total	3,076	59,759
Gasoline Stations Total	1,769	15,365
Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Total	17	302
Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Mfg Total	46	1,915
Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing Total	262	7,118
Motor Vehicle/Part Merchant Wholesalers Total	1,246	17,695
Other Motor Vehicle Dealers Total	266	3,188
Auto Parts, Accessories, and Tire Stores Total	1,824	15,820
Automotive Repair and Maintenance Total	6,065	38,478
Grand Total	14,571	159,640

These establishments require leaders, managers, and increasingly sophisticated technicians with the types of applied skills and competencies that may be obtained from Rio Hondo’s Bachelor of Science in Automotive Technology Degree (ATD) program.

EMSI data supplied by the CCCC Center of Excellence for Los Angeles regional automotive industry-related enterprises (including vehicle manufacturers, replacement and aftermarket parts manufacturers and suppliers, retailers, service/maintenance/repair providers, and government agencies) reports over 6,000 management and professional jobs regionally each year. Nearly all of these management and professional jobs require a bachelor’s degree (see table below).

SOC	Description	Median Annual Earnings	Typical Entry Level Education
11-1011	Chief Executives	\$169,005	Bachelor's degree
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$104,319	Bachelor's degree
11-2011	Advertising and Promotions Managers	\$114,773	Bachelor's degree
11-2021	Marketing Managers	\$124,376	Bachelor's degree
11-2022	Sales Managers	\$110,741	Bachelor's degree
11-2031	Public Relations and Fundraising Managers	\$97,448	Bachelor's degree
11-3011	Administrative Services Managers	\$88,854	Bachelor's degree
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$134,149	Bachelor's degree
11-3031	Financial Managers	\$124,132	Bachelor's degree
11-3051	Industrial Production Managers	\$94,806	Bachelor's degree
11-3061	Purchasing Managers	\$105,277	Bachelor's degree
11-3111	Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$111,890	Bachelor's degree
11-3121	Human Resources Managers	\$104,541	Bachelor's degree
11-3131	Training and Development Managers	\$107,985	Bachelor's degree
13-1041	Compliance Officers	\$73,920	Bachelor's degree
13-1051	Cost Estimators	\$62,047	Bachelor's degree
13-1071	Human Resources Specialists	\$60,866	Bachelor's degree
13-1111	Management Analysts	\$73,778	Bachelor's degree
13-1151	Training and Development Specialists	\$59,920	Bachelor's degree
13-1161	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$61,603	Bachelor's degree
13-2011	Accountants and Auditors	\$67,711	Bachelor's degree
13-2031	Budget Analysts	\$77,867	Bachelor's degree
13-2041	Credit Analysts	\$68,969	Bachelor's degree
13-2051	Financial Analysts	\$87,271	Bachelor's degree
13-2052	Personal Financial Advisors	\$71,083	Bachelor's degree
13-2053	Insurance Underwriters	\$70,176	Bachelor's degree
13-2061	Financial Examiners	\$73,311	Bachelor's degree
13-2071	Credit Counselors	\$44,484	Bachelor's degree
13-2072	Loan Officers	\$76,381	Bachelor's degree
Source: QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees & Self-Employed - EMSI 2014.3 Class of Worker			
* Change means job growth or job loss			

California statewide data for Fall 2014 from the U.S. Department of Labor also shows that turnover of employees in the durable goods sector (including vehicle manufacturers) and the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (including dealers and service providers) reflects an average annual employee turnover of 15.7% and 27.4%, respectively. Using a conservative 20% average turnover factor among the 6,000+ professional level jobs in the Los Angeles/Orange County economic region, there are approximately 1,200+ automotive/transportation related openings each year.