

Diesel Technology

FAQs

Q. How will my schedule be while attending your program?

A. Typically, 8:00 to 1:40pm. There are two classes that run till about 3:00pm. Class days are Monday through Thursday.

Q. How long is the program?

A. Our program offers a Basic Diesel certificate that is one year in length. However, it is not meant to be an end point in education. Our full program is two years in length (4 semesters) and is the 'jump off' point for entry into a career. The actual calendar time may extend to one additional semester if you are on the Associate degree plan and have been required to take remedial level courses to prepare you for credit level coursework on the academic aspects of the Associate degree.

Q. Do you offer evening or summer courses?

A. No, not at this time.

Q. What is the job future?

A. Super and getting better. Currently, the demand is outstripping our graduate rate. Our past graduates have had numerous job offers to choose from, in all sorts of geographic locations and markets.

Q. How much of the training is hands-on?

A. You will only spend about 2 hours per day in the class room, with the balance of your day in the lab working on assigned projects, activities and developing a hands on learning knowledge of systems and components.

Q. Will I be certified when I complete the prescribed training?

A. No. If you are successful in your course work, you will receive a diploma (certificate) of completion. South Plains College (or any other college) does not provide a certification. However, you will be prepared to take ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) exams if you choose to. The ASE exams are available in the truck and transportation industry but not in the equipment or agriculture machinery fields. They will count your 2 years of training at SPC as 1 of the 2 required years of field work to gain certification. ASE will provide test scores to you, but will not grant certification until the 2 years of experience has been attained. Graduate candidates of the equipment option will take an Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) exam prior to graduation and if passed, will earn student level AED certification.

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Q. What tools will I need?

A. There is a list of tools available on our the college web site under Diesel Technology. Where you get them is your choice. Price will vary widely. Expect near to a little over a \$1,000.00 investment in tools.

Q. Can I attend on a part time basis?

A. While it is possible, it is not recommended. Our program is really designed around a student attending on a full time basis. Those that have tried in the past usually do not succeed on a part time basis. If you are serious about this, it is suggested that you contact an instructor and schedule a visit to thoroughly discuss this.

Q. How much reading is involved.

A. A lot! A future career in this field requires a student to acquire a lot of information. Service manuals are very specific in how things are to be done. If you are weak in reading, there is help available through our Student Services office and the Counseling department.

Q. Is this program difficult?

A. Well, that depends. The work we ask of you is not physically that difficult if you follow directions and use the correct tooling and equipment we provide as needed. Some of the subjects can be complex and some of the concepts can be difficult at first, but it gets better IF you do your part. It WILL require you to put in study time on your own or in groups (highly suggested!). One of the biggest stumbling blocks to learning that we see is when a student decides they don't want to learn it or they think it is too difficult to learn well BEFORE they actually try. It does take dedication and effort on your part.

Q. I want to try this and see if its what I want. Can I do that?

A. Sure you can. However, before you decide to do that, have a visit with us first. Getting into this program takes a substantial investment in tooling. Be certain this is what you want before you sample it.

Q. I don't learn well in a classroom and do better at hands on learning. Does your program do it that way?

A. No. Everyone that comes into this program says that. It's the nature of the business. You MUST attend classroom sessions. We do have more hands on than classroom though.

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Q. I don't want to take that math and English stuff. Do I have to?

A. Nope. The only time you are required to take the academic courses is if you are seeking an Associate of Applied Science degree. If you don't want that, then you will take the certificate route.

Q. I never made good grades in school. Can I succeed in this?

A. While it is possible, you are sure to have difficulties along the way. The machines and equipment of today are not what was around in the 70's. The systems on trucks and equipment are very complex and are heavily based on electronic controls and electrical systems. A vast majority of the problems that come to shops now are centered in those areas.