



Diesel Technician Apprentice (50-412-3) Effective 2025/2026

Program Description

Diesel technicians are specialized mechanics who inspect, repair and maintain diesel engines and vehicles. They use diagnostic tools to identify issues, perform engine overhauls, and ensure that vehicles meet emissions and safety standards. Additionally, diesel technicians often conduct routine maintenance such as oil changes, filter replacements, and brake adjustments. This role requires strong problem-solving skills, mechanical aptitude, and knowledge of diesel engine systems. Diesel technicians may also interact with customers to explain repairs and maintenance procedures.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Perform preventative maintenance.
2. Interact with customers and coworkers.
3. Troubleshoot systems.
4. Perform facility and equipment maintenance.
5. Perform brake system maintenance and repair.
6. Perform steering and alignment maintenance and repair.
7. Perform electrical/electronic system maintenance and repair.
8. Perform HVAC system maintenance and repair.
9. Perform hydraulics maintenance and repair.
10. Perform hydrostatic maintenance and repair.

Essential Career Competencies

Gateway's six essential career competencies are the general attitudes and skills promoted and assessed by all programs. All Gateway graduates will develop skills in:

- Communication
- Professionalism and Career Management
- Cultural Competence
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Technology Competence

Get Started as an Apprentice

1. You should apply directly to employers, and entry requirement vary by employer.
2. If you need assistance finding an employer who will take you on as an apprentice, don't hesitate to get in touch with the local WI DWD-BAS Apprenticeship Training Representative at 414.216.8417 to find an employer who has been approved to train apprentices. You can also find apprenticeship employers at <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/ra/applicants.htm>.
3. Once your contract is in place with your employer and WI DWD-BAS, Gateway's Apprenticeship department will communicate with you regarding registration, classes and books.
4. You can contact Gateway's Apprenticeship department at apprenticeship@gtc.edu or 262.564.2954.

Graduation Requirements

- *Minimum of 2.0 ("C") or above for all required courses.
- Meet minimum hourly paid related instruction requirements per WI Registered Apprenticeship Contract.

Notes

1. Students must be physically able to perform the job.
2. Students must be 18 years of age and submit an official high school, GED, or HSED transcript including a graduation or passing date.
3. Students must complete all courses with a grade of "C" or better.
4. Students must have a valid driver's license and pass an aptitude test.
5. Diesel technicians work in repair shops, maintenance facilities or for transportation companies. They spend a lot of time on their feet, work in tight spaces, and may be exposed to loud noise, diesel fumes, and various chemicals. They may need to work irregular hours and should follow safety measures to prevent hazards associated with diesel engines and vehicle maintenance.

Gateway Technical College reserves the right to modify curriculum requirements for students who interrupt enrollment for one year or take over seven years to complete. Tuition and material fees are determined by the board of the Wisconsin Technical College System. Consult My Gateway for exact fee amounts. The District reserves the right to modify, cancel, or relocate course offerings in response to factors such as low enrollment, resource availability, or other relevant considerations to ensure high-quality educational experiences. Students will be notified in writing and are encouraged to meet with their Academic Advisor to adjust their academic plan.



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The course sequence shown on this sheet is the recommended path to completion. Courses will be scheduled in the terms indicated here. Taking courses in the order shown will help you stay on track and graduate according to your academic plan. Courses in this program may be offered in a variety or combination of formats (for example: in-person, video conferencing, online, etc.).

Pathway to Success

Term	Course	Course Name	Credits	Hours
1	412-106	Diesel Brake Systems	4	126
1	412-116	Diesel Preventative Maintenance	3	90
1	412-117	Diesel Suspension & Steering Systems	3	90
1	412-107	Diesel Electricity 1	4	126
2	412-109	Diesel Engine Service	5	144
2	412-108	Diesel Electricity 2	3	90
2	412-112	Diesel Drive Trains	4	126
2	412-114	Diesel Heating, Cooling & Air Conditioning	3	90

Training at a Glance

- Time to complete – Approximately 2.5 years
- On the job time – 4000 Hours
- Related Instruction Time – 882 Hours
- Additional training – Welding; First Aid & CPR Certifications; Transition to Trainer
- Consult the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards website for more information

Bookstore Information

Follett Bookstores are located on the Elkhorn, Kenosha and Racine campuses year-round. Students can rent and purchase new, used and digital textbooks as well as purchase their required course supplies at these locations.

Students may also purchase course materials online at eFollett (link is external) and have their items shipped to their home or campus store locations, as well as review their class schedule in My Gateway, which will link directly to needed course materials in eFollett.

If you need assistance getting started, Gateway's Apprenticeship Department is happy to help.

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT:

Gateway Technical College
Apprenticeship Department
262-564-2954

apprenticeship@gtc.edu

Notes associated with courses (identified by a superscript number at the end of the course title) are located on the front of the sheet. (*) indicates students must achieve a minimum of 2.0 ("C") or above for these major courses to meet graduation requirements.