



THE PITCH

Skilled Career Profiles

Automotive Technology



Automotive mechanics make mechanical repairs and carry out scheduled maintenance on cars, trucks and other motor vehicles using a variety of testing equipment and tools. This process customarily involves the use of computerized diagnostic equipment, such as infrared engine analyzers, spark plug testers and compression gauges. An even greater variety of tools is used to complete the work, including pneumatic wrenches, lathes and grinding machines, jacks and hoists, and electronic service equipment. Besides repairing damaged and defective vehicles, mechanics also conduct routine and scheduled maintenance: balancing and rotating tires, replacing filters, performing oil changes, lubrications and tune-ups, and installing parts such as mufflers, shock absorbers, exhaust pipes, radiators and springs. These repairs and maintenance must be completed to exacting safety standards.

With all of the complex repair and maintenance machinery used and the new technology built into modern automotive components, knowledge of electronics is increasingly desirable in a mechanic. In fact, the new developments in engines, transmissions and suspension systems, and the increased use of electronic components are changing the mechanic's job into that of a technician, with more emphasis on vehicle diagnosis.

Plumbing



Plumbers install and repair plumbing fixtures and water, waste disposal, drainage and gas systems in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. They read blueprints to determine the layout of the system and measure and mark areas where the pipes will be installed and connected, checking for obstructions such as electrical wiring. Once a project has begun, they perform a number of tasks, from simple installation of pipes and fittings to complex calculations and planning in specialized environments such as hospitals. The system must be checked for leaks using air and water pressure gauges to ensure that it is working properly.

Plumbers use a wide range of hand and power tools, torches and welding equipment to cut and shape pipe to precise specifications. An important part of their job is to fit the piping into the building with the least waste of materials while maintaining grade or slope and avoiding trapping air or fluids in the system. A plumber's skills are also applicable in maintenance, service work, hydronic heating, and medical gas cross connection controls and inspections.

Electrical Installations



Electrical wiring is done by electricians who install, repair and maintain wiring, switches, conduits, circuit breakers, lighting and other apparatus in buildings and other structures. They need electronics knowledge and trouble-shooting skills to provide maintenance services for electronically controlled systems. Proficiency in all types of electronic applications is important as electricity is used for a variety of purposes, including climate control, security and communications.

An electrician reads and interprets blueprints, plans and sketches, following the variety of methods and practices used in the construction field to complete basic wiring circuits in accordance with the Canadian Electrical Code. Electricians need to understand electronics in order to install and maintain the increasing amount of electronic equipment involved in modern construction projects. Keeping up with trends and new technology and continuing to upgrade technical skills is an important part of the job.

Carpentry



There are two main categories: structural carpenters who build and maintain structures, and detail carpenters who concentrate on interior cosmetic applications. All carpenters perform numerous tasks. They may be required to install prefabricated structures such as window frames, doors or shelves, build foundations, install beams and subflooring, or erect walls and roofing systems. They also build stairways and wall partitions, install fixtures in kitchens and bathrooms, apply drywall, plaster or insulation material to both ceilings and walls, and install moldings, parquet flooring and tiles.

Carpenters use the latest technology in hand and power tools, including computerized machinery, to cut, fit and assemble wood and other materials in the construction of buildings, docks, industrial plants and many other structures. They start with the drawings or blueprints that define the scope of the specific project, measure and mark the layout, cut and shape the materials with hand and power tools, join the materials, check the work and make any necessary adjustments. Their duties often include arranging for sub-contractors, preparing cost estimates and writing progress reports also.

Hairstyling



Hairdressers help people to look and feel their best. They may be asked to curl, wave, perm, bleach, tint or dye a customer's hair, or merely to cut and style it.

Each appointment begins with a consultation with the customer, to find out what they want done to their hair and offer potential options. They may suggest a hairstyle compatible with the client's physical features, or determine the best style from the client's instructions and preferences.

To complete the appointment, hairdressers advise patrons on how to care for their hair, discuss any problems and recommend appropriate hygiene and styling practices. Before starting on the next customer, they always clean and sanitize their hairdressing equipment.

As styles continually change and evolve, hairdressers must also continue to upgrade and learn new skills to keep up with new trends, products and styles. This training may involve travelling to attend conventions and hair shows, or taking short courses at private styling schools

Baking/Cooking

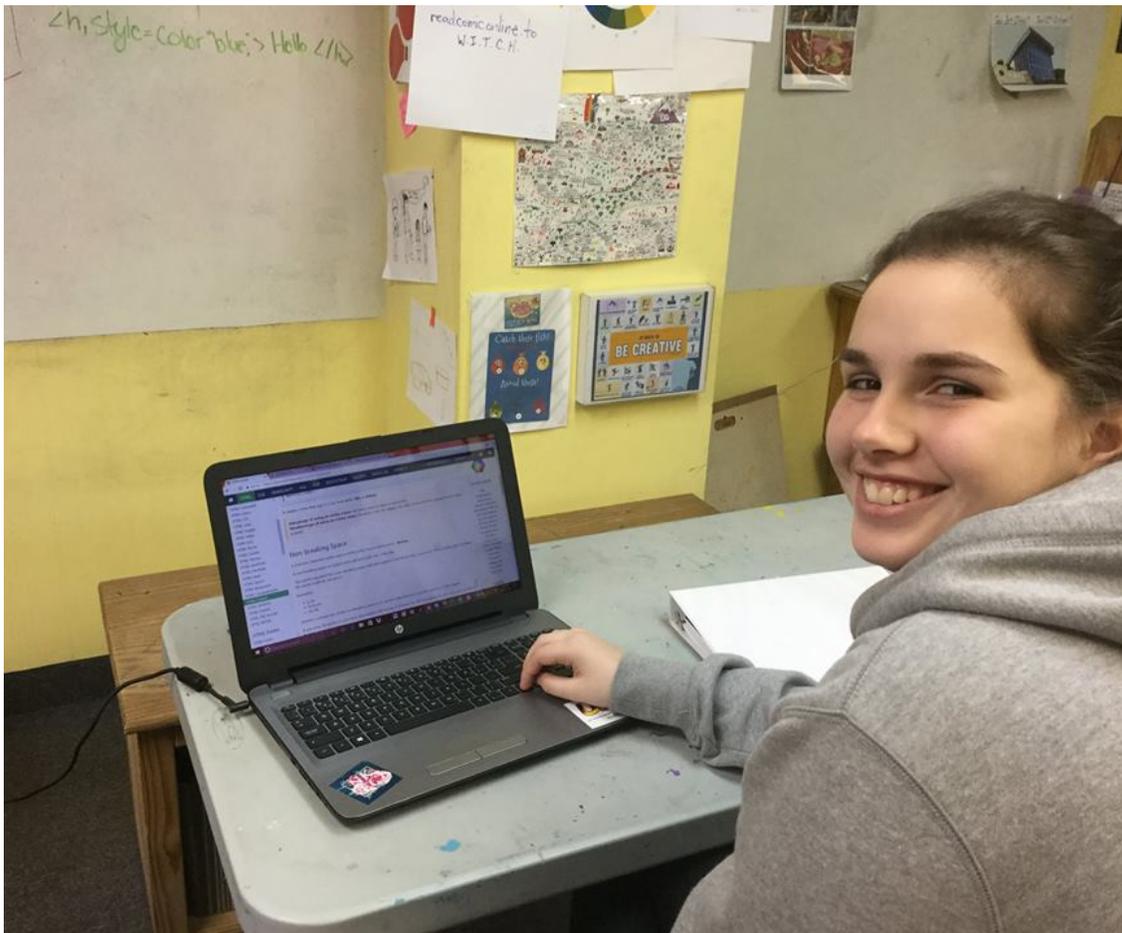


A career in baking/cooking offers a variety of areas in which to specialize. Bakers are responsible for making breads, bagels, pretzels, cakes, muffins, cookies and pastries as well as chocolate and candy, sugar sculptures and icing. They can prepare many different baked goods or specialize in just one. Depending on their experience and training, they may hire, train and supervise other baking personnel, order and control supplies and stock, and price the various products as well.

Bakers are not only required to follow recipes, but in many instances to also create them. They first prepare the dough or batter by using tools and equipment such as cake rounds, pastry papers, and an assortment of cooking and mixing utensils, and then cook them at precise temperatures for a specific amount of time. They also make icing or frosting for the many desserts that need it, and then apply it with a piping bag in intricate designs.

Cooks prepare and present a wide variety of foods. Cooks duties may include some or all of the following: prepare complete meals or individual dishes and food product, prepare special dietary consideration foods and meals, participate in the scheduling and supervision of kitchen staff, oversee food production operation, maintain operational inventory and record, participate and maintain effective sanitation procedures, may plan menus and determine food quality, quantity and cost, participate in the hiring and training of food production staff. Cooks may specialize in the preparation of ethnic or specialty dishes.

Website Development



Website design involves the construction and maintenance of an internet home page. Working on computers with specialized software programs, designers are responsible for the overall arrangement and creation of the internet presentation, which usually includes links to other web pages, graphics, text, and lettering placed according to conceptual layouts and technical specifications. They prepare designs, sketches, illustrations, layouts and visual images to communicate information clearly, precisely and persuasively for their clients. It is crucial that they are able to meet the goals of their client while keeping the website visually appealing, informative and accessible. They also must be aware of the copyright, authorship and ethical issues related to this rapidly expanding phenomena.

Website creation is currently in great demand because of the growing popularity of the World Wide Web as a communications medium. However, for the same reasons websites are becoming so widespread, they are also becoming easier to create, making the industry very competitive. As the technology is continually improving, evolving and changing, designers must be capable of learning and quickly adapting to new products, equipment and computer software in order to win new clients.

3D Game Art



A games artist is someone who creates 2D and 3D art for the visual elements of a video game, such as characters, vehicles, props, scenery, background, objects, colours, textures, and clothing. All these things create the look and feel for a video game. Although this career is computer graphics focused, games artists still use traditional hand sketching in the beginning stages.

Essentially, games artists are graphic artists who specifically focus on video games. They imagine what items will look like, sketch out preliminary designs, develop sketches into forms that go with the game's desired feel, and turn the chosen sketches into 2 or 3D computer graphics.

Three-dimensional (3D) artists may find employment in a variety of places, using computer and film technology to create still or moving 3D creations. A 3D artist may work in media production to create elements for video games or 3D movies. Some 3D artists have the flexibility to work from home. These artists may also work in the growing field of medical illustration, creating 3D images of anatomy for research and diagnostics. Fine 3D artists may produce large or small sculptures from any material, such as clay, wood or metals. These fine 3D artists usually work from a studio and may be found in any city in the country.

Graphic Design



Graphic design offers a wide variety of career options as the skills involved are highly transferable. These professionals are responsible for enhancing the visual impact of reports, publications, advertising, commercials, videos, posters and digital media. Working on computers with specialized software programs, they use images, print styles and visual effects to communicate their message clearly and persuasively. Specific examples of the work done by desktop publishers range from designing corporate logos and letterhead, to creating store counter displays, banners and posters, to designing titles, credits and graphics for film and television.

In graphic designing you work closely and extensively with your clients to create a product that is both visually appealing and able to fulfill the clients' requirements. From estimating the cost of materials and time needed to complete the project to determining the medium best suited to produce the desired visual effect, the ability to listen to and understand your clients' vision is essential to your success.

Car Painting



A career in car painting involves cleaning and preparing panels for paint applications. Car painters are required to mix and apply undercoats and clear coats as well as refinish plastic substrates. They perform the prepping and painting of objects on steel body panels. In addition, they remove surface paint defects on automotive parts. In these cases, they perform a colour tinting to a blendable match. Car painters use a variety of equipment including sanders, blow guns, painting tools, spray guns, and polishers.
