



# **Ford Motor Company**

## Automotive Student Service Educational Training Program



Cerritos College Automotive Department  
11110 Alondra Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 860-2451 x3084  
Office: AT-17  
[www.cerritos.edu/auto](http://www.cerritos.edu/auto)

Steve Borio  
ASSET Coordinator  
(562) 860-2451 ext.2972  
Email: [sborio@cerritos.edu](mailto:sborio@cerritos.edu)  
Office: AT-28A

# Program Summary

**What is the ASSET Program?** Automotive Student Service Educational Training (ASSET) is a two-year automotive technician program designed by Cerritos College and The Ford Motor Company to prepare technicians for the workforce. The program provides classroom and hands-on instruction as well as work experience at a local dealership. At the end of the program, graduates will earn an Associate's degree and are eligible to take the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) national certification exam, [www.ase.com](http://www.ase.com).

**What skills should technicians have?** Technicians need to possess a strong understanding of the mechanical components that make up a vehicle and the computer control systems that can cause them to malfunction. You will need excellent diagnostic and problem-solving skills, good hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity to make repairs. You will also need to learn how to use an array of tools, equipment and instruments associated with the trade. Welding and customer service skills could also be beneficial.

**What do automotive technicians do for a living?** Technicians are responsible for inspecting, repairing and maintaining vehicles. In recent years, the systems and components of these vehicles have become more complex. Technicians need the skills to work not only with special tools and diagnostic equipment, but also with sophisticated electronics and computer systems. As a technician, you may find yourself performing tune-ups, flushing fuel systems, testing ignition and emission systems, installing air conditioning systems, replacing brakes and even repairing engines and transmissions.

**Why should I consider studying under the ASSET program?** We have years of experience training students on Ford specific products and understand exactly what technicians need to be successful on the job. In fact, the ASSET program was designed by Ford Motor Company and Cerritos College. ASSET students have access to Ford's online employee training program and work at a Ford Dealership for 5 semesters while in the program. Graduates not only leave Cerritos College with an A.A. Degree in Automotive Technology but they are also Ford Certified and have 2 years of work experience behind them.

**When does the ASSET program begin?** See <https://www.cerritos.edu/auto/asset.htm> for exact start dates.

**When do I attend school and when do I go to work?** During the regular 18-week semesters (fall and spring), you will be at Cerritos College for 9 weeks and on the job for 9 weeks. During the Summer 12-week semester, you will be at Cerritos College for 6 weeks and on the job for 6 weeks. This rotation system continues for 2 years or until completion of the program.

**What would my class and work schedule be?** Classes can run Monday thru Thursday from 7-5:30PM and work schedules vary based-on employers' needs. In short, this is a full-time program and you should be available for school and work during regular business hours.

**What costs are associated with the program?** As of 2026, tuition for California residents is \$46.00 per unit. Additional costs include student ID fees, health fees, parking fees, lab fees, tools, books and transportation to and from work. All tuition and other fees are the responsibility of the student. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. Non-residents and international students should consult the Cerritos College catalog for accurate tuition fees at <https://www.cerritos.edu/admissions-and-records/catalogue-schedule/>

**What is sponsorship and how does it apply to me?** To successfully complete the ASSET program, students must complete 4 semesters of work experience at a sponsoring Ford Dealership. Securing sponsorship or a job is solely up to the student, however, guidance and support is available through Cerritos College faculty coordinators and staff. Interns are typically paid hourly; rates vary depending on experience. Unpaid internship hours can be used for your work experience classes.

*This cooperative training program is allowed by Education Code 55252, Alternate Work Experience.*

# Application & Registration Procedure

1. Complete the Cerritos College Application at <https://www.cerritos.edu/admissions-and-records/admissions/default.htm>

**Note:** After your application has been processed by the admissions office, **you will receive a student number by email.** Keep your student number in a safe place; you will need it many times.

2. Complete the Ford ASSET Application online at <https://www.cerritos.edu/auto/asset.htm>  
**All applications must be turned in by the deadline.** See the department website for details.
3. New students are required to complete the online Falcon Edge Orientation in their **MyCerritos** account before enrollment. As part of the orientation process, you should have completed the Self-Report Tool (SRT) for math and English placement. If you have questions, please [e-mail counseling](#) (include your name and student ID number).
4. You can access [Pre-Orientation Resources](#) for helpful guides and resources
5. Attend a mandatory Ford ASSET orientation meeting; there may be multiple meetings. Times and locations TBA.
6. Have your resume and DMV driving record ready for dealer interviews. **\*NOTE: You must have a valid California driver's license to be considered employable.**
7. Once sponsored, turn in your Dealer Sponsorship Agreement to your Ford ASSET Coordinator before the first-class meeting.

## Candidate Selection Process

**How are students selected for the Ford ASSET Program?** Students who secured sponsorship from Ford/Lincoln dealerships are enrolled first. Students who have all their requirements are enrolled (by application date) second. Students who have missing requirements are enrolled (by application date) last. All students must be sponsored by a participating Ford/Lincoln dealership by the first day of class per Ford ASSET guidelines to receive Ford certifications.

**What happens if I do not finish my requirements in time?** New students who HAVE NOT completed the Self-Report Tool (SRT) or completed the new student orientation cannot be enrolled.

## Registration

### **How do I register for the first semester of the program?**

First semester class: Auto 161 – Automotive Electricity is reserved for ASSET applicants only. ASSET Coordinators register students for this class on the first day of class.

**\*Pay for your classes at the time of registration. Students who do not pay within 5 days are automatically dropped from their classes. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **How do I register for the remainder of the program?**

ASSET students are given priority registration starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the program and are responsible for signing-up for all their classes using MyCerritos.

## Classes & Schedule

**Schedule.** ASSET students follow a structured class schedule. In the Fall and Spring, you will be at Cerritos College for 9 weeks and then on the job for 9 weeks. Summer semesters are shorter. 6 weeks at Cerritos College and 6 weeks on the job. When on campus, plan to be here Monday through Thursday all day (generally from 7AM-5:30PM). General education classes typically run in the morning (7-11AM) and automotive classes in the afternoon (12:30PM-5:30PM). During your work experience term, your hours will vary. Typical work schedules are Monday thru Friday 8-5PM, but some employers may only need you part-time or on weekends.

ASSET students are encouraged by Ford to complete an Associate of Science Degree. To earn an associate's degree under Plan "A" you must complete automotive classes and general education classes. General education classes are offered in the day and evening as well as online. Speak with a counselor regarding the Ford ASSET automotive pathway. Below is a table with the Ford ASSET course pathway by semester, including the class units.

<b>Semester/Start</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>Semester 1 Fall/August</b>	Auto 161 – Ford Electrical and Electronics	5
	Auto 173 – Work Experience	3
<b>Semester 2 Spring January</b>	Auto 151 – Ford Brake, Steering and Suspension	5
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3
<b>Semester 3 Summer/May</b>	Auto 111 – Automotive Engines	4
<b>Semester 4 Fall/August</b>	Auto 181 – Ford Engine Performance	5
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3
<b>Semester 5 Spring January</b>	Auto 121 – Ford Manual & Automatic Drivetrain	5
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3
<b>Semester 6 Summer/May</b>	Auto 179 – Automotive Air Conditioning	4

# Sponsorship

**Sponsorship.** To successfully complete the ASSET program, you must take 4 semesters of work experience (Auto 173) at a sponsoring Ford Dealership. The purpose of work experience is to give you an opportunity to apply the skills you learn at Cerritos College to real life situations. As an apprentice, it is ideal that you work side by side with a seasoned technician repairing and maintaining vehicles. However, there may be times when your employer will want to see how you conduct yourself as an employee before taking you on as an apprentice. They may start you as a porter washing cars or changing oil on the lube rack. If you are offered a position, TAKE THE JOB! Having a job makes you a Ford employee. As a student with a job, you will have access to Ford's web-based training modules. In just a few months, with a little experience under your belt, you will be qualified to do much more than washing cars or changing oil.

**Do I get paid to work?** Interns are typically paid between \$17.00 and \$20.00 an hour depending on experience. However, unpaid internship hours can be used for your work experience classes.

**Do I find my own sponsor?** Securing sponsorship is solely up to you, however, guidance and support is available through Cerritos College faculty coordinators and staff.

**How do I find a sponsor/job?** You will need a resume, interview skills and a DESIRE to find a job. The very first thing you need to do is to get motivated and excited. Many of our graduates are *still* working for their sponsoring dealers. They are making good money and love what they do. THAT COULD BE YOU! Second, you need to be equipped with all the right tools and skills that are going to help you land that job. Here are some tips to help you along the way.

- 1) **Educate yourself about the ASSET program.** You will have to explain the program to your future employer. Know how the ASSET program works and what you will be learning. When will you be in school? When will you be at work? What skills can you contribute to their business by being involved in this program?
- 2) **Develop a resume that outlines your educational background and work experience.** Do not forget to include any automotive experience you have, even if it is personal projects or classes you have taken. Employers want to know that you have an interest in automotive and that you are capable of using your hands and mind to solve technical problems.
- 3) **Be able to show that you are responsible and qualified to work at a dealership.** Go to the DMV and get a printout of your driving record. Employers cannot hire you unless you have a driver's license and clean driving record. Also, if you are proud of your previous grades include a copy of your unofficial transcripts in your packet.
- 4) **Plan your search.** You need to find a job/internship at a Ford Dealership to graduate from the ASSET program. Find out where all the Ford Dealerships are in your area. Develop a list of dealerships you want to visit and put them in priority order. <http://www.ford.com/dealerships> is a great website to use. Remember, other students who live in your area are looking for a sponsorship as well. Once you hit all the dealers within a 15 miles radius, expand your search to cover other areas in Los Angeles Country or Orange Country.
- 5) **Practice your interview skills before talking with a service manager.** You never know when you will get your interview. Your first meeting may be the only opportunity you have to impress a potential employer. Think about what they may want to know when you ask for a sponsorship. Come up with some good responses. If you feel that your first meeting did not go well, write down the questions you were asked and practice better responses. It is likely that the next service manager will ask similar questions.
- 6) **Plan to dress for the job you want.** Cerritos College automotive shirts should be worn to your interviews. You can purchase an automotive shirt at the Cerritos College bookstore.

## Sponsorship – Continued

- 7) **More jobs are found in person than over the phone.** The culture of the industry demands that you drive down to a dealership and talk with a service manager about being sponsored. He or she wants to meet you. They want to know how you come across as a potential employee and what skills or interests you already possess. They may also want to talk with you about your desire of becoming a technician. Do you really have the skills and mindset of being a good tech? In addition, the ability to hand them a packet (resume/DMV record/transcript) about yourself and the program gives them time to review your credentials after your brief meeting. They are more likely to review a printed packet than an email they can easily delete from their inbox.
- 8) **Do not give up.** On your way out of the dealership, you should have grabbed the service manager's business card—or at least their name. You can always call the dealership's receptionist to get the service managers contact information. Within 2-3 business days of meeting, send a thank you email to the service manager. Thank them for their time. Attached electronic copies of your credentials so they can review them if they have not had a chance to. If they give you any indication that they may be able to hire you or promise to call you back but do not, follow up with a phone call in a few weeks. Sometimes, service managers may not be able to hire you. They may not have the money or space. Use good judgment when handling these situations. You do not want to pester the service managers.
- 9) **Follow through.** Once you get a job, do what you can to keep your job. Show up on time, be responsible, learn as much as you can and make some friends. Always remember, your employer hired you and is paying you to do a job.

**What if I don't find a sponsor in time?** It is typical for someone with little or no automotive background to experience having trouble finding a sponsor right away.

- 1) **Our faculty are available to answer any questions you or your future employer may have.** Steve Borio is the ASSET Coordinator. (see the cover page for contact information)
- 2) **We have a Career Services Office on campus that helps students create resumes and prepare for interviews.** Call (562) 860-2451 x2356 for a personalized resume building session, interview skills and/or a mock interview session with a career counselor. Appointments must be made 2 weeks in advance. If you already have a resume, you can bring it by for a professional review and tips. You may drop your resume and pick it up during office hours. The reviewing process takes seven business days.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed on Fridays in June & July)

(562) 860-2451 x2366

<https://www.cerritos.edu/career-services/>

# CERRITOS COLLEGE DEALER SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

1. DEALER INTERVIEW: Discuss the following subjects with applicant. Satisfy yourself that the applicant meets your standard.
2. EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE: Every applicant will have a unique background. Prior training or experience is not essential for success, but may be valuable in certain instances.
3. SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE: Review the applicant's potential to complete the academic work required for graduation. This can be determined by interview, testing, and consultation with the college or high school.
4. EMPLOYABILITY: The applicant should be viewed as seeking permanent employment. Is this person someone you could employ full time, once the required skills are learned?
5. CAREER INTEREST: The applicant should express a strong desire to be a professional automobile technician. Are his/her goals consistent with the dealership's needs for the next few years?

DEALER APPROVAL: I recommend this applicant for the Cerritos College Manufacturer Specialty Program and agree to provide sponsorship should he/she be accepted into the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer/Authorized Representative Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dealership Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

# Scholarships

**Scholarships.** Several scholarship opportunities are available to Cerritos College automotive students.

**How can I apply for scholarships?** General and automotive scholarship applications are electronic and can be found on the websites below.

General Scholarship Applications

<https://cerritoscf.org/>

## Important Policies

**Uniform Policy.** The ASSET Program at Cerritos College is comparable to the function and operation of a Ford Dealership. It is important for students/employees to look professional, as they represent the occupation in which they are involved. Uniforms are required at both school and work for safety reasons and to promote a neat appearance while working with customers.

One of the goals of the ASSET Program is to help students develop their full potential in becoming an automotive service technician. To achieve this goal, the professional approach is stressed, part of which wearing a uniform is required. To that end, the following requirements have been adopted:

1. The student must wear a Cerritos College Automotive Uniform or a uniform provided by his/her dealership
2. Uniforms will be worn whenever classroom or lab activities are being performed

**Attendance.** It is the responsibility of student to attend classes regularly and apply themselves to the classes in which they are enrolled. Students should report planned and unplanned absences directly to their instructors. Students who are absent in excess are subject to being dropped from the class. *Students who are absent or tardy on the first day of class are also subject to being dropped from the class.*

**Drops.** It is the responsibility of the student to drop classes when desired. Consult the schedule of classes or the College Calendar at <https://www.cerritos.edu/campus-guide/academic-calendar.htm> for deadlines.

# Corporate Student Center

The Corporate Student Center is a place online where you can access all the tools and information you need to be a successful student—view your upcoming school schedule, find out when to register, register for classes, locate another department on campus, and much more. You can access the center by visiting us online at <https://www.cerritos.edu/auto/corporate-students.htm>

## MyCerritos

MyCerritos is an online program where students can register for classes, pay tuition, download unofficial transcripts, view financial aid related information and much more.

**How do I get a MyCerritos account?** Your MyCerritos account is automatically set-up once your college application is processed. You will know your application has been accepted once you receive an email from the school with your student ID number. Applications generally take 48 business hours to process.

**How do I login to MyCerritos?** Go to [www.cerritos.edu](http://www.cerritos.edu). Click on the MyCerritos link. To sign in, enter your 7-digit student number as your *User ID* and your 6-digit birthdate (MMDDYY) as your *Password*.

**How do I use MyCerritos?** Once you are logged into your MyCerritos account, click on the *Student Center* link to view your academic and financial information or click on one of the *Quick Links* to perform a task. If you need help using MyCerritos, download the Student Guide by clicking on the help link, which is located on the top far right side of the main page.

## Schedules Plus

Schedules Plus is an online program that allows you to view all the classes that are being offered for the upcoming or current semester.

**Where can I access Schedules Plus?** Visit <https://secure.cerritos.edu/schedule/>. Anyone can view the college class schedule.

**How do I use Schedules Plus?** Select the semester, term, and subject you wish to view. Then, click View Departments. Select the classes you wish to view. Then, click View Courses. The status of the class will read Open or Waitlisted, showing whether you can add the class or add to the waitlist.

## Program Costs

**Tuition Costs for California Residents.** Tuition is determined by the state of California. As of 2026, tuition is \$46 per unit. See a list of **estimated** costs in the chart below; totals do not include additional prerequisite courses and tools. Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Plan to pay your tuition 2-3 months before each semester begins at the time of registration. For example, the spring session always starts in January. However, you will register and pay for classes in October. Tuition and fees are paid as you go, not all at once.

<b>Semester/Start</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Fall/August	Auto 161 – Ford Electrical and Electronics	5	\$230
	Auto 173 – Work Experience	3	\$138
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$100
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$468</b>
Spring/January	Auto 151 – Ford Brake, Steering and Suspension	5	\$230
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3	\$138
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$95
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$463</b>
Summer/May	Auto 111 – Automotive Engines	4	\$184
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$71
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$255</b>
Fall/August	Auto 181 – Ford Engine Performance	5	\$230
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3	\$138
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$100
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$468</b>
Spring/January	Auto 121 – Ford Manual & Automatic Drivetrain	5	\$230
	Auto 173 - Work Experience	3	\$138
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$95
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$463</b>
Summer/May	Auto 179 – Automotive Air Conditioning	4	\$184
	Other Fees (health, ASCC, rep fee, parking, lab fee)		\$71
	<b>Total Semester Cost</b>		<b>\$255</b>
	<b>Total Program Cost/Total Units</b>	40	<b>\$2,372</b>

**\*Fees and start dates subject to change**

# Books & Tools

**Books.** Books for your Automotive classes are provided by The Ford Motor Company! New and used textbooks for general education classes are not but can be purchased at the bookstore on campus or online at <https://www.bkstr.com/cerritosstore/home>

**Tools.** Technicians are required to have their own tools. Below is a general list of what technicians might need.

It is recommended that you wait to make purchases until you are sponsored or in the second year of the program. You will figure out what you need with time. Ask your instructors for more advice on which tools to buy and when. They will also have information about the Matco, Snap-On Tools and Mac Tools student discount (up to 60% off).

## **1/4" Drive U.S. & Metric**

- 1 Drive ratchet 4/5" in length
- 1 Drive socket set
- 1 Extension 2"
- 1 Extension 6"
- 1 Drive handle

## **3/8" Drive U.S. & Metric**

- 1 Drive ratchet 8" in length
- 1 Drive extension 1"
- 1 Drive extension 3"
- 1 Drive extension 12"
- 1 Drive deep socket set 6 pt.
- 1 Drive spark plug flex socket 5/8"
- 1 Drive spark plug flex socket 3/16"
- 1 Universal joint
- 1 Drive deep metric sockets: 6-19 mm

## **1/2 Drive U.S. & Metric**

- 1 Drive ratchet 10" in length
- 1 Drive socket set 7/16 thru 1"
- 1 Breaker bar 18"
- 1 Drive extension 3"
- 1 Drive extension 10"
- 1 Adapter 1/4-3/8"
- 1 Adapter 3/8-1/2"
- 1 Drive impact socket 3/4" & 13/16"
- 1 Drive impact socket 19mm

## **Wrenches**

- 1 Set combination box-open end 1/4-1"
- 1 Set metric combination 7-19mm
- 1 Set Allen wrenches-standard shank
- 1 Set metric Allen wrenches
- 1 Set standard flare nut wrenches
- 1 Set metric flare nut wrenches
- 1 Adjustable wrench 10"

## **Screwdrivers**

- 5 Straight blades 1 each: stub, small, medium, medium large, and large
- 3 Phillips screwdrivers #1, #2, and #3
- 1 Set Torx drive screwdrivers

## **Pliers**

- 1 Par slip joint
- 1 Pair diagonal cutting
- 1 Pair needle nose
- 1 Pair adjustable joint (channel lock) 12"
- 1 Pair vise-grip 10"

## **Miscellaneous Tools**

- 1 Tool Box, with lockable drawers
- 2 Center punch
- 3 Punches 1/8, 3/16, and 5/16"
- 2 Chisels 7/16 and 5/8"
- 1 Plastic tip hammer
- 1 Set of ball-peen hammers
- 1 Rubber mallet
- 1 Pair safety goggles/glasses (instructor approved)
- 1 Tire pressure gauge
- 1 Valve core remover
- 1 Hand file, flat w/handle 10"
- 1 Gasket scraper
- 1 Knife
- 1 Pry, pinch or crowbar
- 1 12 volt test light
- 1 Flash light w/batteries
- 1 Set flat feeler gauges U.S. & Metric
- 1 Oil filter wrenches
- 1 Brake tools: return and hold down
- 1 Brass drift
- 1 Tape Measure
- 1 Inspection mirror
- 1 Box latex gloves
- 1 Pick-up magnet
- 1 6" steel rule graduated in 1/64"
- 1 Spark plug gapping tool

# Automotive Complex Map



