

# NATEF



The National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) is the organization that sets standards for high quality automotive programs in schools. Programs can show they meet NATEF standards by becoming certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). ASE also handles the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians.

The goal of NATEF/ASE certification for training programs is overall program improvement. Representatives from a broad cross section of the automotive industry review and revise the standards every three years. The standards address relevant areas of purpose, administrative support, budget, student services, instruction, equipment, instructor qualifications, facilities, cooperative education programs, etc.

ASE certification of training programs has grown from the introduction of the automobile standards in 1982 to include collision repair and refinish (1990), medium/heavy truck (1992), and alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) (1996). The process has resulted in certified vehicle training programs in all fifty states at the high school and college levels.

The standards also require the involvement of local businesses in the schools in a variety of ways. For example:

- An active advisory committee is required to meet semi-annually and provide feedback on curriculum, facilities, and equipment, as well as to plan for future needs.
- Many local business owners provide cooperative work experience for students.

- Major automobile manufacturers donate late-model vehicles, equipment, and training materials. They offer cooperative work experience in local dealerships in conjunction with NATEF automobile technician training programs at community colleges.
- Many independent shop owners offer co-op and apprenticeship programs for students.

## Program Certification Process

Automotive programs can become certified by the following process:

- **Program Self-Evaluation.** The process begins with an extensive self-evaluation performed by training program instructors, administrators, and advisory committee members. Members of this group compare the program to national standards, and they have the opportunity to make improvements before submitting evaluation documents to NATEF.
- **NATEF Review.** The self-evaluation materials are then sent to NATEF, where they are reviewed to determine if the program qualifies for an on-site evaluation.
- **On-Site Evaluation.** If the program qualifies, a team of educators and technicians does an on-site evaluation.
- **Recommendation for Certification.** When industry requirements are met, the program will become certified for a period of five years.

## CASE

NATEF also evaluates the providers of training for working technicians. The program is called Continuing Automotive Service Education (CASE). This program deals with the way training providers develop and deliver update training.

### Contact Information

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