

Motorcycle Mechanic

Fix bikes, scooters, quads and snowmobiles. No degree, no license, and you can be earning inside a year.

TYPICAL PAY

\$48,580

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$35k to \$74k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Dealerships, independent shops, powersports stores, racing and to...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Auto shop, small engines, welding and electronics all count. Working on your own bike counts more.
- 2 Get in the door** Weeks to months
Porter, lot attendant or lube tech at a dealership. A trade school certificate helps you skip this step, but plenty of people start here.
- 3 Core training** 1 to 2 years
Either on the bench with a senior technician or through a motorcycle technology program. Engines, fuel systems, electrical, suspension and brakes.
- 4 Brand certification** Ongoing
Harley-Davidson, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki and Kawasaki each run their own technician training. Your dealer sends you, level by level.
- 5 Master technician, or your own shop** 5 to 10 years
Top level brand certification, service manager, or an independent shop of your own.

Pros and cons

- + No tuition needed and no license to chase
- + Paid from your first week in the shop
- + Free manufacturer training worth thousands
- Flat rate pay punishes you on slow days and on jobs that go wrong
- Seasonal in cold states, with cut hours in winter
- You buy your own tools, and it adds up to thousands

Optional boosts

Electrical diagnosis. Suspension tuning. Powersports breadth. Dyno tuning and performance work.

Good to know

Carburetors are basically gone

Street bikes sold in the United States now run electronic fuel injection, oxygen sensors and engine control units. A mechanic who started in the 1990s rebuilt carburetors all week. Today the same job is a lapto...

The brands run their own schools

Universal Technical Institute teaches the trade at campuses in Avondale, Arizona and Orlando, Florida, and students can add manufacturer specific training from Harley-Davidson, Honda, Yamaha...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Motorcycle Mechanics (49-3052.00)

Universal Technical Institute: Motorcycle Mechanics Institute program
Apprenticeship.gov, US Department of Labor

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/motorcycle-mechanic>



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