

Auto Mechanics

In the U.S., finding a reliable automobile mechanic is a difficult process. Although many mechanics are extremely skilled and honest, some may be looking to take advantage of people, or are just incompetent. To protect yourself from these situations it is important to find out from the mechanic ahead of time what work needs to be done before s/he begins working. Due to possible language problems, ask the mechanic to write down each inspection or repair that the mechanic is planning to make. Remember that it is your car and your money!

Also, do not agree to let the mechanic do any work that was not discussed when you first took the car in. There have been situations where the mechanic will “discover” other problems with your car while fixing the original problem. Take care of one problem at a time—the original one. Remember, **before buying a used car**, it is a very wise and acceptable to have a mechanic inspect the vehicle to make sure there are no problems. You must call for an appointment and fees.

DISCLAIMER: We cannot guarantee any of these mechanics or the prices! The comments in quotes are from international students & scholars.

Mechanics Within Walking Distance to Campus

Payne’s Service Center 919.286.7633-719 Iredell St., 27705-\$70 (takes about 1-1.5 hours)

Neal’s Garage 919.286.1167-1907 West Markham Ave., 27705-No Fee. (“I very highly recommend Neal’s Garage”)

Northgate Auto Service 919.813.2792-1130 West Club Blvd., 27701 (next to Northgate Mall)-\$65 for a complete *Buyer’s Evaluation* (takes about 1 hour)

Mechanics Within Driving Distance of Campus

Al’s Garage 919.967.3016 • 100 S. Merritt Mill Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516 • \$100 • (price may vary depending on what you choose to have checked out).
“They tell you if you don’t need to repair something and they don’t charge you more. The only problem I had with them is they don’t repair electronics on Ford cars. They gave me another address.”

B & B Garage 919.286.9586 • 1909 Lamar St., 27705 (Near Guess Rd. and I-85) • No Fee.

Cole’s Auto and Transmission 919.682.5407 • 417 Foster St., 27701 (one block north of downtown) They do not do evaluations, but recommended as a mechanic. Over 40 years of experience.

“Friendly, reliable service and they’re willing to explain anything about your car or the service that you’d like to know.” “I have been consistently going to them for the past 5 years and they are terrific.”

Daniel Bros. Exxon 919.489.4660 • 3309 Old Chapel Hill Rd. 27707 • \$80 • “Great family garage”

Forest Hills Service Center 919.489.4041 • 1317 University Dr. 27707 • \$40 (takes about 1½-2 hours for a basic evaluation)

Hawkins Auto Repair 919.383.2046 • 120 US Hwy 15-501 Byp Durham, NC 27705 • \$80 (takes about 1 hour) • “For changing the timing belt, their rates were \$100 cheaper than the other two places I checked.”

Jorge’s Garage 919.697.2641 • 902 E. Trinity Ave. 27704 • \$60 (takes about 40 minutes) • “Jorge is hands down one of the best! Fast service, very reasonable prices, honest and he is open BOTH Saturday and Sunday! We are dealing with him for the past 3 years and he has saved us a lot of money!”

Lonnie’s University Auto Center 919.309.7898 • 220 Butler Ave. 27705 • \$55 (1 hour) • “The staff is friendly, they listened to EVERY detail I had to say about the problem, and insisted they give me a ride to campus. Not only was the staff at Lonnie’s great, my car purrs like a kitten now, and I didn’t have to shell out megabucks to get it fixed.”

Massengill’s 919.687.0558 • 715 Rigsbee Ave. 27701 • \$115 for detailed inspection. (Takes 1 hour, please make appointment) “These guys can REPAIR, not only replace.”

Parrish Towing & Garage 919.286.9784 • 2711 Hillsborough Rd. 27705 • Does not do pre-purchase evaluations. “I have used them for years and never had a bad experience. I have an older car (1977) which they have kept running for years.”

Wasp Automotive 919.572.2886 • 4906 Meadow Dr., 27713 • (near intersection of Hwy 54 & 55) \$64. (takes 1 hour) Specializes in Japanese Cars and comes highly recommended for service by many international students.

