In January 1992, BMW introduced the first Body & Paint Service Technician Education Program in the industry. This program was developed to provide BMW centers with highly-trained, entry-level collision repair technicians.

BMW's Body & Paint Training Centers are fully equipped with the latest state-of-the-art tools, equipment and materials. Students utilize processes unique to the BMW Group as they advance their skill level in BMW technology, repair procedures and safety.

Relocation and living expenses are the responsibility of STEP students, as they receive hourly compensation during training.

For more information on BMW STEP, please visit: www.bmwstep.com

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The BMW Body & Paint Service Technician Education Program (STEP) Level 1 engages and trains enthusiastic students for entry-level collision repair employment within the BMW center network. Located in Woodcliff Lake, NJ and Oxnard, CA, BMW STEP Level 1 is an eight-month training course focusing on all aspects of body and paint repair:

- BMW Systems – Electronic repair manual, parts catalog, flat-rate manual
- Estimating
- Aluminum and carbon-fiber technology
- Product introduction – All current models
- Repair and replacement of structural components
- Structural measuring (jig, universal, electronic systems)
- Repair and replacement of outer panels (steel, aluminum, plastic, SMC, carbon-fiber)
- Approved component replacement methods (bolt-on, welding, bonding/riveting)
- Paint repair, preparation and refinishing
- Glass repair and replacement
- Polishing and detailing
- Entry-level paintless dent repair

After completion of the curriculum students merge into a workshop environment. Collision damaged vehicles are repaired by students under the guidance of their instructor. This opportunity hones their skills and better prepares individuals for the transition to a collision center after graduation.

Students graduating from BMW STEP Level 1 will be considered for advanced Level 2 training in Greer, SC. BMW Body & Paint STEP Level 2 is a 12-month mentorship program that helps further hone students’ BMW repair techniques and quality standards with a hands-on approach. Students are immersed in a real body shop environment, repairing actual damaged BMW Group vehicles and mastering more advanced topics such as blueprinting a repair, identifying proper repair techniques, optimizing productivity, and more.

BMW Body & Paint STEP is the starting line for candidates looking to take their collision repair career to the next level.

To qualify for the Level 1 program, candidates must:

- Have a valid driver’s license acceptable to BMW standards
- A minimum 3.0 GPA
- 95% attendance rate or better
- Drug screening
- Background check
- Graduate from an automotive technical college, high school automotive collision repair program, or be currently employed as an entry-level body & paint technician at a BMW collision repair center.