



GET STARTED ON YOUR CAREER AS A HVACR SERVICE TECHNICIAN

So, you think you've got what it takes to be a HVACR service technician? Great! You're just a few steps away from an exciting career like no other.

For starters, schedule a little one-on-one time with your guidance counselor and parents to discuss which classes you should take. They can point you in the right direction and help you take advantage of related courses through your high school or at a local technical school. What's more, they can help put you in touch with a local mechanical service contractor to answer any questions you might have about the field.

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A career as a HVACR service technician provides:

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Service technicians are in high demand nationwide and jobs are plentiful.

INCOME POTENTIAL

In a 2005 survey of MSCA member contractors, the average annual salary was more than \$50,000! Plus, you will earn overtime, benefits and even a pension. Laptop computers, service vehicles, uniforms and tools are often provided by the employer as well.

TRAINING

On-the-job training, state-of-the-art classroom training and apprenticeship programs are available and provided at no cost to you.

COLLEGE CREDITS AND DEGREE PROGRAMS

College credits and even an Associate's degree can be earned by completing training programs and/or passing certification exams.

HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY

HVACR systems are increasingly complex, incorporating technical and computerized elements that make the field challenging and always changing.

SPECIALIZATION

Become a master in an aspect of HVACR such as controls or supermarket refrigeration and you'll be in more demand and potentially earn higher pay.

TALK WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Getting started is easy. Speak with your guidance counselor and discuss your interest in a career as a HVACR service technician. They can help you plan your high school coursework to best prepare you for the field.

Recommended classes and coursework include:

- :: Math (algebra and geometry)
- :: Mechanical drawing
- :: Science (physics and chemistry)
- :: Computers/Computer-Aided Design
- :: Electronics
- :: General business (marketing and sales)

Your guidance counselor can also discuss options at your local vocational or technical school. If a HVACR program is available, investigate the requirements and talk with the instructors prior to enrolling.

TALK WITH A MECHANICAL SERVICE CONTRACTOR

One of the best ways to determine if a career as a HVACR service technician is right for you is to experience what a technician does on a daily basis.

The good news is that many current technicians and their mechanical contractor employers are often more than happy to speak with aspiring technicians about the industry. There may be an opportunity to visit the mechanical contractor's facility or talk with an experienced technician.

Ask your family or friends to see if they know anyone involved in the industry to get your started. You can also find a listing of mechanical service contractors in your phone book or visit www.mcaa.org/directory for a listing of mechanical service contractors that are members of the industry's leading trade association, the Mechanical Service Contractors of America. Ask to speak with the service manager, introduce yourself and explain your desire to learn more about the industry. Depending on the contractor, they may offer summer internships that enable you to gain valuable first-hand experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about a career as a HVACR service technician, visit www.5starcareers.com

To find an accredited HVACR technical school near you, visit

www.hvacexcellence.org/AccreditedPrograms.cfm



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