

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technician

Become an HVAC Technician



Do you find tinkering with mechanical, electrical and electronic gadgets a fun weekend challenge? Do you enjoy home projects like installing a new air conditioner? If working with your hands is half the fun of a good brainteaser, you might consider becoming a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) technician.

HVAC Technician in a Nutshell

HVAC technicians perform a wide variety of heating, ventilation and air conditioning services:

- Install and maintain systems that control temperature, humidity and air quality in homes, businesses and other types of buildings.
- Read blueprints to install gas, electric, solid-fuel, or multiple-fuel heating systems and air conditioning systems.
- Install components such as fuel and water lines, air ducts, vents and other equipment.

Because HVAC systems consist of many unique mechanical, electrical, and electronic components-such as motors, pumps, fans, ducts, pipes, compressors and thermostats-HVAC technicians often specialize in either installation or repair, although they are generally adept at doing both. Technicians may also choose to specialize in one kind of work, for example, solar panels or hydronics (water based heating systems).

Torrance Adult School offers programs in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (and refrigeration) that range from a few weeks to six months. Here, you will learn the basics of installation, maintenance, and repair, as well as study theory, design, equipment construction and electronics.

Employers prefer to hire individuals who have completed a technical school training program or apprenticeship, especially with the increasing sophistication and complexity of HVAC systems. To enter a training program or apprenticeship, a high school diploma is typically recommended.

Day in the Life of an HVAC Technician

Most HVAC technicians work at least 40-hours per week, and often more during peak seasons. In addition, maintenance workers often work evenings and weekends, or they may be on call.

Technicians work in a variety of environments-from residential homes to hospitals, office buildings or factories. You may work inside or outside, in any weather or temperature-and don't underestimate what broken heating or cooling equipment can do to your workspace. In addition, be prepared to work in cramped positions or high places, and always be aware of the risks when working with electricity.

Job Growth for HVAC Technicians

Employment opportunities for HVAC technicians are expected to increase faster than the national average for all occupations through 2014, especially in metropolitan and fast growing areas of the country. This is due to a large number of retirements in the field, which is expected to create many job openings.

You will also receive information on various certifications available in this field.