Do you feel you are in a dead-end job with no prospects for advancement? Are you bored performing the same mundane tasks daily with no variation? Would you prefer to be active and make a difference in people’s lives? If you are looking for a hands-on career that offers diversity in job duties, an HVAC Technician training program may be the right choice for you. It is a great opportunity to obtain a new skill by learning all aspects of the heating, venting, and air conditioning industry while also improving the environment.

**Benefits of an Online HVAC Technician Training Program**

Many choose to enroll in campus programs because they like the structure and personal contact with professors and students. But if you work full-time and are unable to travel, you will need an option that conforms with your busy schedule, allows you to learn at your own pace, and frees you from the hassle of commuting. If you need both flexibility and convenience yet want the same quality of education, an online HVAC Technician Training Program is your best option. Although studying online is not without its caveats, the advantages are significant. Here are some of the pros and cons of enrolling in an online program for HVAC Technician training.

**Pros**

• **No deadlines for program completion** – Go at your own pace so that you can study around your busy work schedule without any pressure.

• **Convenience** – No traveling, sitting in traffic, or difficulty parking. You can take the HVAC training program 100% online. An online program is ideal if you cannot or do not want to commute to campus.

• **Many Programs to Choose** – There are over 130 accredited online programs to compare and select from.

• **Affordable Costs and Payment Options** – Tuition fees vary depending on your payment plan and the program. Still, they are more affordable for an online program because fewer cost factors are involved. Remittance is flexible. You can opt to make a lump-sum payment or arrange a payment plan.

• **Media-rich Learning**– Educational content is diversified with streamed presentations, animations, simulations, videos, and digital textbooks are provided.

• **Mobile-friendly platforms** – Online resources and a student portal help center are accessible on all electronic devices.

• **Certification preparatory manual** – Materials and practice tests are provided to prepare you to sit for exams. In addition, some online programs offer a voucher to cover or offset certification exam costs.

**Cons**

• **Lack of student and instructor engagement** – Connection with your instructor and other students is difficult when you are studying online. Although you don’t have an in-person experience, communication is not impossible. You can find other methods to hook up.

• **Time management is a challenge** – Students can find it difficult to manage their time wisely in completing online course work. Without a schedule, it's easy to get distracted by other life demands that could cause you to fall behind in coursework and cramming to compensate for lost time.

• Most likely, you'll be required to take the certification exam at an approved testing site.

**Courses and Educational Objectives for an Online HVAC Technician Training Program**

The HVAC Technician certificate program will provide the knowledge and training needed to install, repair, and maintain residential and commercial air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration systems. Major courses that are offered are:

• Heating and Air Conditioning Orientation

• Fundamentals of HVAC/R Safety, Systems, and Controls

• HVAC/R System Design, Layout, and Commercial Applications and Installation

• Electrical Systems

With these and other coursework, you will gain an understanding and full mastery of scientific principles of heating and cooling, HVAC/R system components and functions, and the ability to handle the equipment with precision and safety. Here are some of the specific learning objectives:

• Know techniques to identify faulty functions in heating and cooling systems

• Trouble-shoot by identifying repair procedures used for residential and commercial heating systems.

• Learn basics of a cooling system such as compression, condensation, and evaporation as they apply to piping

• Identify standard refrigerants used in commercial applications and know safe handling and disposal procedures

• Explain how oil, gas, boiler, and hydronic heat pumps work

• Connect systems to electrical sources

• Understand and apply government regulations and guidelines for installing, maintaining, and repairing heating, cooling, and refrigeration systems

**Program Duration and Cost**

Most online certification programs for entry-level HVAC Technicians can be completed in as little as six months. Those who want more advanced education can enroll in an online associates program that can be completed in 1.5 to 2 years. An online bachelor's degree would take about four years to complete.

Costs vary depending on the school and your payment plan; however, online programs are generally less expensive than campus programs. Since you are not paying for campus overhead and room and board with an online program, you will be saving money. Their costs are usually in the 10,000s, while you should expect to pay between $700 and $800 for an online program. Anticipate paying an extra $100 or more if you pay over time.

**Types of HVAC Technician Program Certifications**

There are three types of HVAC Technician program certifications offered by governing bodies that have established accreditation standards for the industry.

The HVACR Industry Competency Exam offered by NATE (North American Technician Excellence) is a basic competency exam for those with one year of experience or less. It also has sections that test in specialties such as residential and commercial refrigeration and different knowledge levels.

The 608 Certification, which tests competency in building air conditioning and refrigeration systems, is offered by the Environmental Protection Agency and tests different knowledge levels. In addition, the EPA provides the 609 certification, which tests competency in vehicle air conditioning, and the Green Certificate, which certifies skills in environmentally friendly practices.

Another accrediting body, HVAC Excellence, provides two-tiered certification for the Professional and Master Specialist levels: the Heating, Electrical, Air Conditioning, Technology or (HEAT.) exam. The first tier is granted to a technician with a minimum of two years in the field, and the second tier is to one with a minimum of three years of experience.

**Accreditation and Continuing Education**

It is advisable to choose a program that is accredited through one of the major HVAC governing bodies mentioned, such as NATE, or through others such as the Air Conditioning Refrigeration Institute (ACRI) or the Partnership for Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Accreditation (PAHRA). You want to ascertain that you receive a quality education that conforms to established accreditation standards. In addition, some employers may prefer candidates who have completed accredited training. Completing an online accredited HVAC Technician Program can give you an edge in the job market.

Once you are credentialed and established in the field, you will be required to maintain your existing licensure. As regulations and technology advance in the industry, so must your competency. All working HVAC Technicians must obtain 14 continuing education credits every two years to keep their certification current and valid.

**Self-Study Tips for Online Students**

Your success in completing an online HVAC Technician training program will depend on your level of self-motivation. You don't have the traditional classroom structure, so you must hold yourself accountable. The following tips will guide you to stay on track with your online studies.

**Time Management** – Follow the timeline of your syllabus by keeping a calendar of deadlines. Divide time between segments.

**Study Location –** Choose an area that is private, quiet, and has a solid internet connection. Stick to that area to train your mindset for study in one location.

**Problem Solving –** Get immediate assistance to help solve a problem with coursework, so you don’t get behind.

**Exam Preparation –** Prepare for the HVAC exam by taking practice tests that will be provided to you. Get tutored by someone who has taken the exam, has done well, and knows what to expect.

**Hands-on Experience –** A most effective way to learn the course material is to apply it in a practical setting. Find apprenticeship or internship opportunities that will help you master the HVAC concepts.

**FAQs –**

1. **What are the prerequisites for enrolling in an Online HVAC Technician Program?**

 You must have either a high school diploma or a GED.

1. **What are some types of HVAC Technician job positions?**

HVAC Technician, Installer, Refrigeration Mechanic, Refrigeration Transporter, and Refrigeration Technician.

1. **What is the general job description of an HVAC Technician?**

An HVAC Technician installs, cleans, maintains, inspects, tests, and repairs heating, ventilation, cooling, and refrigeration systems. The technician can work with residential or industrial systems as per the employer.

1. **What are HVAC/R Systems?**

They are systems that control the temperature and air quality in residential and commercial buildings.

1. **How much money can I expect to earn as an HVAC Technician?**

Salaries vary by state, employer, and experience. The average salary range is approximately between $48,000 and $51,000 or around $23.00 per hour. Pay raises are customary as you attain more skills on the job. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average pay in 2020 was $53,410, and the top 10% made $78,910 or more.

1. **What is the job growth expectancy rate for the HVAC industry?**

The HVAC industry is expected to grow 4% over the next ten years, adding over 15,000 new positions. As per the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), the industry's value is anticipated to increase by $10 billion by 2030.

1. **Can online HVAC Technician students receive on-the-job training?**

There is extensive on-the-job training once you complete the initial certification program. Multiple opportunities exist to work as an apprentice or in an externship under experienced workers.

1. **If I move out of the area, can I expect to find work as an HVAC Technician?**

You can work almost anywhere since HVAC systems are necessary to live and work in a temperature-controlled environment.

1. **Can I get additional training?**

If you want additional training, you can enroll in an HVAC/R Technician Program, but you must have one or two years of industry experience.

1. **Could my job as an HVAC Technician be outsourced?**

Work as an HVAC Technician is never outsourced.

1. **Will I be required to wear a uniform as an HVAC Technician?**

Yes, individuals working in the HVAC industry are required to wear special

uniforms for safety and effectiveness.

Your success with completing an online HVAC Training Program will depend on your interest and dedication to learning and perfecting the many needed skills to do this job. Though once you have mastered the basic principles of the course work and proven your competency through the certification process, the real test of success will be your experience in the field. If you consider enrolling in an online HVAC Technician Training program, you'll want to ask yourself these questions. Do you have what it takes to handle the physically demanding workload and long hours required of an HVAC Technician? Can you dedicate yourself to precision and safety to benefit the environment and others?

 Whether you are a hands-on person already or have a passion for performing the varied duties and facing any challenges of the HVAC industry, enrolling in an online HVAC Technician Training program could be the right career move. The convenience, flexibility, and affordability of an online HVAC Training Program can provide you with the opportunity that may not have been there for you otherwise. This online program is an especially good move if you are interested in improving the environment and want to learn a new skill set on a timeline that works with your schedule.