



HVAC

About hot jobs and cool properties



ROGER HICKOFF, 39, OF CAMP HILL FOUND HIMSELF JOBLESS WHEN HIS EMPLOYER DECIDED TO RELOCATE MOST OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS TO A HONDURAS PLANT.

Married with three children, he had a bachelor's degree in graphics from California University of Pennsylvania. After checking job availability, Hickoff decided his best opportunity would be to retrain for a new kind of employment through HACC.

He applied for an extension of his state unemployment benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance, a program in which workers who lose their jobs because of overseas moves can get financial help and re-employment services.

"I had to select retraining from a state list of jobs where workers are needed," he says. He chose HVAC, which stands for today's complex heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Hickoff earned his associate in applied science degree in one year because his past credits in general education courses, such as English, were transferable to HACC.

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Find admissions information, tuition and a list of the 22 south-central Pennsylvania school sponsoring districts that pick up part of the tuition cost for residents at www.hacc.edu.

HACC students receive more than \$65 million in financial aid annually. To fill out a free application for Federal Student Aid go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov. For more financial information, call HACC Financial Aid Services at (717) 780-2330.

For more information about HVAC programs, call Trades and Technology Department Chair Dan Wagner at 221-1300, ext. 1407 or e-mail dwwagner@hacc.edu.



HACC does not discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected classification.

The best part is “my family went through it without feeling any economic blow,” he says. Now an employee of Remco Mechanical Contracting in Mechanicsburg, he says HACC has “a great system of theoretical and hands-on experience. You learn on equipment that mimics apparatus worked on in real conditions.”

HVAC is one of the many trades programs re-located to HACC’s new Midtown Center in the former Evangelical Press Building at 1500 N. Third St. The new facility is even better, Hickoff says.

Technology Department Chair Ed Burns confirms the HVAC equipment in use is “cutting edge and high tech.”

As for who makes a good candidate for this program, Burns emphasizes both male and female students “are doing well.”

He adds, “Every age group should be part of this. The career outlook is good because qualified technicians are hard to find.”

GETTING A JUMP ON STUDIES

Those looking to get a head start while still in high school can look into HACC’s College in the High School program, notes Ross Berger, director of Tech Prep and Secondary Articulation.

“Students can earn up to 12 college credits for only \$50 per course at many high schools and vocational-technical schools in HACC’s service area,” he explains. Check with local secondary and tech centers to see if HVAC is offered in your school.

Starting fall 2008, students also can start the HVAC program at Franklin County Careers and Technology Center, 2463 Loop Road, Chambersburg. For information about the FCCT, call (717) 263-9033.

DEGREE CURRICULUM

HACC requires 66 credits for an associate in applied science degree, including:

- 22 credits of English composition, reporting, technical writing, effective speaking, interpersonal communication, physical education and electives;
- 41 credits of the major, focusing on customer service, refrigeration, fundamentals in electricity, air conditioning, heating systems, design, HVAC print reading control systems, safety, program specific electives, and
- 3 credits of applied math.

Graduates can move up from entry-level, multi-skilled jobs into supervisory positions. Starting salaries for HACC HVAC graduates are around \$38,000 a year in south-central Pennsylvania.

Burns points out he regularly receives calls from companies seeking employee candidates. With the demand level so strong and the potential for attaining supervisory promotions, higher earning power can be expected.

ALTERNATIVE CHOICES

HACC also offers certificate and diploma programs in HVAC.

A certificate program of 35 credits requires:

- 3 credits of report and technical writing;
- 29 credits that focus on HVAC courses such as refrigeration, fundamentals in electricity, air conditioning, heating systems, design, HVAC print reading control systems and safety, and
- 3 credits of applied math.

This option prepares students for jobs as service or maintenance technicians or equipment installers.

A diploma program of 26 credits requires:

- 22 credits that focus on HVAC courses such as refrigeration, fundamentals in electricity, air conditioning, heating systems, design, HVAC print reading control systems and safety, and
- 4 credits of basic communication and applied math.

Those completing the course may work as HVAC service and maintenance technicians and installers.

WHAT YOU’LL FIND AS A HACC STUDENT

HACC offers students:

- flexibility to study part- or full-time while meeting obligations in the workplace;
- individual attention and remedial work to fulfill admission requirements, and
- the ability to use course credits toward transferring to a four-year bachelor degree. In addition, HACC provides high-quality education at the lowest cost in the area.