



## 5 STAR Careers

To learn more about the growing HVACR service technician industry, please visit [www.5starcareers.com](http://www.5starcareers.com). 5 STAR Careers is a technician recruitment effort from the MSCA and UA. The website provides educators and guidance counselors with details about service technician careers, industry training programs, and employment opportunities.

There is also an informative section for students interested in learning about the field, including a detailed career overview, different career paths and training options.

Students can visit [www.ua.org/join.asp](http://www.ua.org/join.asp) for information on local apprenticeship programs.

5 STAR Careers supports the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

### About MSCA

MSCA is the leading national trade association for HVACR contractors, providing education, marketing and labor/management services to assure its members deliver quality, value and expertise for all building system needs.



#### MSCA

1385 Picard Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-869-5800  
[www.msca.org](http://www.msca.org)

### About UA

With over 300,000 members, the United Association of the Plumbing, Pipefitting and Sprinklerfitting Industry of the United States and Canada (the UA) has been the leading HVACR industry trade union for 117 years.



United Association  
901 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-628-5823  
[www.ua.org](http://www.ua.org)



## HVAC Excellence Schools

To find a local accredited HVAC school, visit <http://www.hvacexcellence.org> then click on Accreditation. HVAC Excellence is an independent, third-party national accreditation program for HVAC educational programs and schools.



A 5-STAR Career in the  
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning  
and Refrigeration (HVACR)  
Service Industry

## A 5 STAR Career as a HVACR Service Technician means:

- > Working in a high-tech, fast-paced, growing industry
- > Having a career in high demand and offering a variety of employment opportunities
- > Being part of a nationally recognized skills training and certification process
- > Earning college credits and a degree while you work
- > An excellent earning potential with benefits



### Career Overview

A career as an HVACR service technician is more than just a job. It allows an individual to become involved in a highly skilled, in-demand profession that provides critical services to a multitude of buildings and facilities. This profession combines hands-on work with challenging problem solving skills to maintain increasingly complex heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

The HVACR industry offers an extensive training and certification program at NO cost to the student, enabling them to earn college credits towards an Associate's degree while they are employed and learning the trade. Simply put, they earn while they learn!

### In Demand

Environmental control systems are becoming more complex and computer-based, and rising heating and cooling costs necessitate continuous maintenance and improvement of existing building systems to enhance efficiency and prolong building life.

For aspiring individuals, this translates into a significant and ongoing need for HVACR technicians. And, with an excessively large number of baby boomers expected to retire from the industry in the next few years, demand is especially high. This is good news for anyone looking for an expanding, recession-proof career. In fact, the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook predicts the HVACR mechanics and installers segment to grow by 18 to 26 percent between 2004 and 2014.

### Attributes of a Technician

HVACR service technicians are able to work with their hands AND think critically to solve complicated problems. Today's technicians also must have a firm grasp of computer systems, possess good customer-service skills and be self-starters. These skills will help them on their way to success in the HVACR field.

### What Technicians Do & Where They Work

The comfort systems (heating, air conditioning and ventilation) in all buildings require ongoing maintenance, service and repairs. That's where the highly trained HVACR service technician comes in. They can be found working in all kinds of facilities – office buildings, warehouses, retail stores, hospitals, and even sports stadiums and cruise ships – performing everything from routine preventative maintenance to critical, emergency repairs to installing high-tech diagnostic components.

### Industry Training

One benefit of becoming an HVACR technician is that you can hit the ground running. Aspiring technicians can enroll in an accredited HVACR technical school or begin their career as an apprentice through the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters. UA apprentices go through a rigorous five-year 5 STAR Training program which includes both state-of-the-art classroom training and on-the-job training. Technicians in the 5 STAR Training program are employed by a mechanical service contractor where they learn key skills by working with an experienced technician. The students also attend classes at dedicated HVACR training centers where they learn from highly qualified, experienced instructors who use the latest in HVACR teaching tools.



### Certification, College Credits & Degree

Technicians that complete the 5 STAR Training program attain their UA STAR certification (a comprehensive test at the end of training), which is the leading nationally recognized technician certification program. In addition, 32 college credits are earned, valued at over \$3,000, which can be applied towards a college degree.

Additional credits can be earned through local community colleges or the UA's College on Demand, resulting in an Associate's degree in HVACR Technology.

### Employment Opportunities

HVACR service technicians can find a variety of employment opportunities through a nationwide network of contractors belonging to the Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA). MSCA contractors are among the most successful, fastest growing firms in the industry. They are in need of qualified technicians to provide quality service to their customers and help new technicians get their HVACR service careers started.

A career in the HVAC field is ideal for individuals who want to get a jump start on their life and profession. With job security, the ability to earn while they learn, and the added benefit of gaining credit towards a college degree, motivated individuals are sure to see the advantages of a career as an HVACR technician!