

Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration: Occupational Outlook

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Like many community college programs, the Huntsville Center plays an essential role in the professional development and specialized training of an ever-increasing, diverse, and dynamic workforce.

When Lee College students complete the HVAC program at the Ellis Unit, they are qualified for jobs such as air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration technicians and installers.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.

In Texas, the employment outlook in this industry is even better. Texas CARES Regional Occupation Information predicts that employment for heating and air conditioning mechanics and installers will increase by 21.50 percent from 2012 to 2022.

In the Gulf Coast region of the state, the job potential is above average, according to Texas CARES. Employment in 2012 was 6,270 and is projected to increase to 7,880 in 2022. The average hourly income in 2013 was \$20.87.

Commercial and residential building construction will drive employment growth. The growing number of sophisticated climate-control systems is also expected to increase demand for qualified HVACR technicians, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job opportunities for HVACR technicians are expected to be excellent, particularly for those who have completed training at an accredited technical school or through an apprenticeship, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.