

# HVAC Excellence

PO Box 521, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-0521

Phone: (800) 394-5268 URL: [escogroup.org/hvac](http://escogroup.org/hvac)



November 06, 2024

HVACRedu.net

Mr. Chris Compton, CEO, Founder and Director

P.O. Box 77

Heron, MT 59844-1116

Dear Mr. Compton,

On behalf of the HVAC Excellence accreditation review board, I am honored to inform you that your program has been granted HVAC Excellence HVACR Technologies Accreditation. You should take great pride in your continued commitment to excellence in education.

Please find enclosed a copy of the team evaluation report and the final determination. Additionally, the school will receive a plaque and banner to display your accomplishment.

As an accredited program, you are now authorized to continue to use the HVAC Excellence accredited logo on the school website, catalog, and other materials promoting the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program.

Contact me at your convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Jeannie Birch*

Jeannie Birch

Administrative Director

[jbirch@escogroup.org](mailto:jbirch@escogroup.org)

cc: Ms. Phoebe Harker-Rivera, Student Services Specialist

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## Programmatic Accreditation Final Determination HVACR Technologies

### Date

November 6, 2024

### Name of School

HVACRedu.net

P.O. Box 77

Heron, Montana 59844-1116

Mr. Chris Compton, CEO, Founder and Director

Ms. Phoebe Harker-Rivera, Student Services Specialist

After conducting a thorough review of the submitted self-study materials and the accreditation assessors' team report following their online evaluation, the HVAC Excellence Accreditation Review Board is pleased to grant a six-year reaccreditation for the HVACRedu.net online HVACR program. Your long-term association with HVAC Excellence and continued efforts to maintain a program of excellence are commended.

### Program Suggestions

At the recommendations of the HVAC Excellence review board and the accreditation team, it is suggested HVACRedu.net:

- ensure that program faculty members stay up to date on A2L, low GWP refrigerants, and the refrigerant transitions that are presently in progress.
- add an R-290 (propane) module to the program's curriculum.
- encourage instructors to continue to validate their mastery of content by taking educator credentialing exams. These subject matter educator exams validate if an HVACR instructor has mastered the subject matter to teach the competencies in each subject area taught, or if they need additional training in that area.

- support industry-specific professional development for faculty members. As an example, the National HVACR Education Conference is geared specifically to the needs of HVACR instructors.

### **Program Commendations/Recognitions**

HVACRedu.net is commended and recognized for:

- individual assistance available to all students by phone or online.
- excellent videos embedded into each course.
- incorporating low GWP refrigerant training in the program, as students completing the program need to understand how to safely handle, store, and work with new-generation refrigerants.
- exceptionally experienced and qualified instructors.
- the comprehensive and well-organized self-study that was submitted.



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## Team Visitation Report – HVACR Technologies

### Visitation Date

October 8, 2024

### Team Members

James Crisp, Ph.D.

Steve Allen, M.A. LEED AP

### School

HVACRedu.net

P.O. Box 77

Heron, Montana 59844-1116

### Faculty/Staff Interviewed

Mr. Chris Compton, CEO, Founder, and Director

Ms. Phoebe Harker-Rivera, Student Services Specialist

### The accreditation team's recommendation to the HVAC Excellence Review Committee

Team members concur that the online Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) program provided by HVACRedu.net meets the standards set forth by HVAC Excellence and recommends re-accreditation for six (6) years.

### Standard 1 - Mission of Program

HVACRedu.net is an online provider of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration courses. HVACRedu.net has been in operation for over 20 years and has a clearly established mission statement. The program's mission statement can be found on their website, student handbook, publications, and other prominent places. HVACRedu.net's website, handbook and master catalog includes necessary information relative to student tuition, maintenance fees, special clothing or safety equipment, textbooks, tools, and other pertinent information.

HVACRedu.net's website provides information related to required books, tools, and supplies on its website. Although students are not required to purchase tools, a list of recommended tools for technicians in the industry is included in the Master Catalog. Employment information for fields related to the HVACRedu.net curriculum is provided on its website. HVACRedu.net provided documentation related to employment information and employment possibilities in the HVACR industry. HVACRedu.net complies and meets Standard 1 as set forth by HVAC Excellence.

## **Standard 2 - Administrative Responsibilities**

As an online training program, HVACRedu.net is very different from traditional classroom instruction. However, team members found evidence of strong administrative support for the HVACR program. As company founder, the Director is directly involved in both the day-to-day operation of the school as well as strategic planning for the future. Interviews with the various members of administrative staff and the instructors for the HVACR program revealed a close working relationship between the administration and faculty. The self-study documented the program's compliance with HVAC Excellence Standards.

As a nationwide operation, with an online HVACR theory training program HVACRedu.net maintains a system of official student records and provides student transcript data. Students receive transcripts documenting course/skill attainment on a semester basis. Certificate and diploma completion is recognized with an official institute transcript and diploma. The self-study contains copies of transcripts and diplomas as exhibits.

HVACRedu.net has a student attendance policy in place that is documented by an online sign-in process, with instructor's follow up for excessive absenteeism. The student attendance policy and all other policies/costs are provided to students in the Student Handbook and Master Catalog on-line with the ability to download the document. HVACRedu.net complies and meets Standard 2 as set forth by HVAC Excellence.

## **Standard 3 - Finances and Funds**

HVACRedu.net is a privately owned and operated HVACR online training program. The budget is funded by tuition fees paid by students, their employers, or corporate contracts. There is evidence of budget planning and internal review processes.

Exhibits are provided to document the school's formal budget and review process. The budget includes a purchase order system to provide funds for the annual operation of the HVACRedu.net operation. HVACRedu.net provided the visiting team (through the on-line download process) with copies of the budget and purchasing process. HVACRedu.net complies and meets Standard 3 as set forth by HVAC Excellence.

## **Standard 4 - Student Services**

The Student Affairs unit is staffed with competent staff members capable of assisting students with the intake process and assisting the students to navigate through the required courses and achieve their personal goals. The HVACRedu.net website provides professional profiles for staff members including direct contact information. Staff members were able to describe each step of the student intake process and provide evidence of procedures to ensure student success. Once students have completed the enrollment package, they are assigned to a Student Services team member to get them started and assist throughout the intake process.

Because they offer two new-to-the industry programs: The Apprentice Program, and the NATE Certified HVAC Technician Program, admissions procedures apply only to those two programs. Most of their online students are currently employed and sign up for Professional Development



courses, or programs for which there is no admission required. A mandatory orientation interview with faculty is required as part of the acceptance process. The faculty will give the students a campus tour via video conference, with an emphasis on navigating the courses. The self-study provided a copy of the Program Orientation Policy and Procedure.

HVACRedu.net's Student Services department works with a national audience by telephone and online network. HVACRedu.net provides a complete student data/transcript system providing transcript to students upon request. HVACRedu.net provides all students assistance on-line or by telephone to the HVACRedu.net staff needing individual assistance. HVACRedu.net has a refund policy provided to students during the enrollment process and is available online for review. HVACRedu.net complies and meets Standard 4 as set forth by HVAC Excellence.

### **Standard 5 – Instructional Design & Program Elements**

HVACedu.net meets the requirements set forth in Standard 5 of the HVAC Excellence Accreditation Manual for HVACR Educational Programs.

All on-line courses offered by HVACRedu.net are in HVACRedu.net Master Catalog (revised April 19, 2018). It shows class hours, objectives, and competencies are clearly stated. The course descriptions are well written and informative. The self-study included a comprehensive HVACR syllabus. Classes are also available in Spanish.

The following online classes were audited:

- 101 - HVACR Fundamentals
- 139-1 - Introduction to HVAC Electric Heat Systems
- 104 - Copper Works
- 050 - Applied Math
- 202-01 - Efficiency HVAC System Maintenance – Central Chillers
- OSHA 10 - Hour Construction
- 263-1 - Small Condensing Boilers
- 441 - Commercial Refrigeration
- 441-1 - Web Lecture Recording and Module Presentation
- 139 - Electric Heat
- 139 -2 - Troubleshooting Electric Furnaces 1

Videos Watched:

- Campus Orientation and Navigation
- Program Student Handbook
- Ohm's Law
- Electrical Necessities – Intro
- Electrical Part 1 – Atomic Structure
- Cutting Skills
- Swiveling Deburring Tool
- 104 Swaging Video
- Torch Setup and Safety Video

- 101-4 Gas Works Overview

The online classes were easy to navigate and were professionally produced and presented. The related videos were well done and highly informative. Each online module contains links to supplemental information, such as PDFs, video lectures, and a glossary related to the lesson. Course objectives are clearly stated. The embedded videos for each course are excellent. Students must pass the end of section quizzes before continuing to the next section. Exit points for specific courses are well defined. Student interaction with an instructor via email is encouraged.

Specialized training includes:

- A Four-Year Apprentice Related Training Program
  - Year 1 - 155 Hours
  - Year 2 - 164 Hours
  - Year 3 - 186 Hours
  - Year 4 - 153 Hours
- OSHA 10 Hour Certification (Included in the Apprenticeship Program).
- NATE Certified HVAC Technician Program (Core and Specialty Exams).
- EPA 608 Certification.
- Training designed for specific requests by employers and company owners.
- Special educational programs and individual courses are listed online in Master Catalog.
- Low GWP training and certification is done through ESCO.

Safety training is included in all modules. Each module exam includes the safety procedures of the related topic. Students perform the assigned tasks related to the module with their employer. Year 1 of the Apprentice program includes OSHA 30 certification. Student to instructor ratio not applicable to online training.

Program orientation includes work ethics and modules that cover personal work habits, communications, and work relationships. This topic is also covered in the Student Handbooks. Each student has an on-line grade book, which shows the grades earned on each exam. Student Services monitors each student's progress, and they will contact the student to encourage course completion within the allotted time

The activities of the HVACR Program Advisory Board are well documented in the self-study. A list of board members and meeting minutes was submitted.

#### **Required Compliance Corrections**

- None.

#### **Standard 6 - Physical Facilities**

- Not applicable.

**Standard 7 – Equipment and Tools**

- Not applicable.

**Standard 8 – Cooperative Training**

- Not applicable.

**Standard 9 – Instructor Qualifications**

HVACedu.net is in full compliance and exceeds all requirements set forth by HVAC Excellence for Standard 9.

The instructor's qualifications and experience are outstanding. The instructor's professional development is well documented in the submittals.

Student exit evaluations are required at the end of each course. These evaluations are reviewed and discussed with staff instructors at team meetings.

**Required Compliance Corrections**

- None.

**Commendations and Recognitions**

HVACRedu.net is commended and recognized for:

- Outstanding instructional staff - HVACRedu.net has exceptionally experienced and qualified Instructors.
- The self-study submittal was comprehensive and well organized.





**Teresa Pezzi**  
Executive Director, MSCA  
tpezzi@mcaa.org

The contractor members of the Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA) are constantly looking for new technicians to fill job vacancies nationwide.

Who is the MSCA? We are the leading national trade association for heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing and facility operations contractors representing companies such as Johnson Controls, Carrier Commercial, EMCOR, McKinstry, and over 1,200 other prominent members. We are a subsidiary of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America, an organization that represents over 2,600 mechanical contractors and top employers in North America.

We understand that you may have more job postings than students to fill. However, not all jobs are created equal! Our member companies offer career opportunities with:

- The potential to EARN up to six figure income per year
- Numerous BENEFITS including: Health Insurance, Pension Plans, Laptop Computers, Service Vehicles, Uniforms and more.
- Lifelong education with college credits, certification and degree programs
- A career with unlimited opportunity for GROWTH and ADVANCEMENT!

We recognize the importance of a good education for tomorrow's HVAC service technician. If your program has been accredited by HVAC Excellence and your students have passed their HVAC Excellence Employment Ready Certifications, our 1,200 member contractors can fast track your students to a higher entry level as a result of these credentials. It is the job of every school to get their students the best jobs possible. MSCA members offer career placement opportunities that are hard to match.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Pezzi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Teresa Pezzi  
Executive Director, MSCA





# Articulation Agreement

Between HVAC Excellence and the United Association  
for Advanced Placement in an HVACR Apprenticeship Program



## Agreement

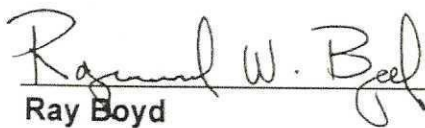
This agreement is between the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA), and HVAC Excellence. The agreement is effective from August 15, 2023, and shall continue in force until either party notifies the other in writing or cancels the agreement.

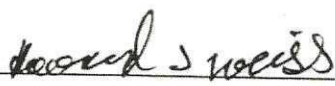
This agreement establishes an advanced placement opportunity in a local union's HVACR apprenticeship program for applicants who meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be a graduate of an HVAC Excellence accredited program in good standing with HVAC Excellence. A current list of accredited programs can be found at:  
<https://www.escogroup.org/accreditation/accreditedprograms.aspx>
2. The applicant must successfully pass a series of five HVAC Excellence Employment Ready/Specialty exams within two years of their date of application. These include Electrical, Air Conditioning, Electric Heat, System Performance which covers critical charging, airflow, psychrometrics, and combustion analysis, and one of the following exams (Gas Heat, Oil Heat, or Heat Pumps) within two years of their date of application.
3. The applicant must have graduated with a C average or better.
4. Upon admission to a United Association Local Union's HVACR apprenticeship program, the applicant may be classified as a second-year apprentice and receive up to one year of training credit, in recognition of the critical training received at the accredited program. This is consistent with the apprenticeship program's policies for the awarding of advance credit.
5. The local union's training director may require the apprentice to complete the program's required safety courses, such as OSHA 10, or History courses such as UA Heritage, in addition to the regular advanced placement requirements.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all documentation as required for this advanced placement.

This agreement shall be reviewed for modification by a committee consisting of both parties every two (2) years or as required by industry changes. This agreement shall remain in force until such aforementioned changes are agreed upon.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ray Boyd  
 Training Director  
 United Association

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Howard Weiss  
 President  
 HVAC Excellence, ESCO Group

8/14/2023  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

