

# Program Review

## Executive Summary

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### Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

Majors Reviewed:

- *Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Design Technology (BHD), B.S.*
- *Heating, Ventilation and Air Technology (HV), A.A.S.*
- *Plumbing Certificate (PH), Certificate*

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**Pennsylvania  
College of Technology**

A Penn State Affiliate

The Heating and Plumbing Technology program was developed and proposed in 1947 by the Williamsport Technical Institute. As technology advanced in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning industry, the Heating and Plumbing program evolved, offering an associate degree in HVAC Technology and Plumbing Certificate. In 1989, a referendum was established, changing the community college to the Pennsylvania College of Technology. To close the gap between industries' need for skilled designers and installers, the college added a B.S. degree in 1996, becoming one of three schools within the United States with a sole focus on HVAC. The HVAC Technology majors include Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Design Technology (BHD), Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology (HV), and Plumbing Certificate (PH). These majors provide graduates with a strong foundation in both the HVAC and Plumbing industry. This is evident through on-campus recruiting events and job placement rates.

The department (BHD, HV and PH) underwent an accreditation visit from the Partnership for Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Accreditation (PAHRA) committee in Fall 2018. Accreditation status was granted by the committee until Spring 2023. The PAHRA accreditation visit allowed the program to identify development and growth opportunities.

The program's faculty provides expertise from multiple specialties within the profession of HVAC and plumbing industry. Four of the full-time faculty are prepared at the master level, with two faculty members presently working on a degree completion in HVAC or Education.

The HVAC program is dedicated to keeping ahead of the latest developments and trends in the profession of HVAC technological advancements and education. Graduates for the program are workforce-ready and with support from the institution the HVAC program will continue to provide leaders in the HVAC and Plumbing Industry.

#### Recommendations:

- The department will continue to update the program's five-year plan annually. The five-year plan will include advisory board recommendations and industry trends to keep curriculum and labs relevant under the PAHRA accreditation.
- The faculty will analyze current courses and develop a plan to replace dated equipment, service, and installation practices. The curriculum will be adjusted to focus on new technologies and trends of the industry, while maintaining the basics needed to master these new energy technologies.
- Faculty will continue to analyze and identify curriculum that could be transformed into distance learning formats without losing the hands-on experience. Finding Web-based software that is conducive to meeting curriculum requirements has been challenging.
- Under the advice of the programs advisory committee, develop curriculum geared towards commercial service and installation practices. Industry has acknowledged the need for students to understand the advanced equipment and technologies within the commercial industry.
- The faculty will attend industry related professional development offerings to add diversity in expertise across the department.

- The program will explore business and industry partnerships to help keep curriculum and technology in line with industry trends.