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Steamfitters Local 420

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What is a Steam Fitter? What is an MESS Serviceman?

What is the Term of the Apprenticeship? How long of a commitment?

What does earn as you learn Mean?

What is our Training Center Mission? Our Vision?

What happens after I graduate from the Apprenticeship?

How can I get in? What do I have to do? When can I start?

Steamfitter/Pipefitter (BTJ)

The scope of work of the Steamfitter/Pipefitter encompasses installation and servicing of systems requiring piping. This includes steam and hot water heating systems, air conditioning/refrigeration systems, chemical & petrochemical plants and complete environmental systems in hospitals, schools, churches, high rise office, and apartment buildings. The trade includes joining pipe mechanically and metallurgically by soldering, brazing, or welding. It also includes erecting and working on scaffolding, interpreting blueprints, and writing technical reports. Measuring, cutting, and fabricating piping or tubing using mechanical equipment is also the work of the Steamfitter

Mechanical Equipment Serviceman (MESS) - HVAC & R

The scope of the MESS encompasses service and maintenance of commercial air conditioning, refrigeration, ventilation and heating equipment and similar systems. Electric, gas & oil fired hydronic and forced air equipment, associated combustion controls, and temperature/humidity controls are included. Building automation equipment service is also included.

Terms of Apprenticeship

Apprentices serve a five (5) year working apprenticeship with each year divided into two (2) periods (semesters) for a total of ten (10) periods. Apprentices attend a full day of class at least once every two weeks for 11 days per period and must meet the minimum requirements pertaining to grades, attendance, appearance & conduct in the classroom and on the job. Apprentices are assigned to work for signatory contractors by the Training Director as needed by end users.

Wages Apprentices start at a percentage of the current Journeymen hourly wage rate and receive rate increases each year. They are assigned employment immediately after their orientation to the program. (Day1). They will continue to be placed in employment for the duration of their apprenticeship as long as they are in good standing.

Benefits: Health Care benefits including vision, dental, and major medical commences after the required initial enrollment eligibility period (5 months after registration)

Training Center Mission Statement

The Mission of the Steamfitters Local Union 420 Training Center is to instruct our apprentices to a level of excellence that maximizes their employability in all industries of our jurisdiction and ensures that they will meet or exceed the level of professionalism required to carry on our proud heritage in the Piping and HVAC&R Trades. We are also committed to making training opportunities available to equip our journeymen with the skills necessary to stay competitive in our technologically changing world. By facilitating these training needs and requirements we are enhancing the employment opportunities of our Members while remaining fiscally responsible to the beneficiaries of the Training Fund.

OUR VISION

Our Training Center Exists To Serve Our Members

With over 100,000 square feet of Training Space available, we have ensured that our apprentices are given the highest quality learning experience possible in a state-of-the art facility with the space and flexibility to adapt to the ever evolving business atmosphere.

Our apprentices receive training in Mechanical drawing, Trade related Science and Physics, and Trade related Mathematics and Trigonometry. We Train Welding, Soldering, Brazing, Victaulic, Screw, Fusion, Bending and many other means of installation. We instruct the Mechanical Equipment Service field(HVAC&R) on installation, start-up, commissioning, balancing, troubleshooting & service of systems ranging from residential & commercial to the largest high tonnage chillers utilized in Hospitals, Pharmaceuticals, stadiums and Industrial applications. The leading Equipment manufacturers and Mechanical Equipment Contractors (MCA\MSCA) utilize our apprentices and journeymen. Our electronics controls labs and UA VRF (ductless variable refrigerant flow) systems provide the latest state-of-the-art training on Variable Frequency Drives, HVAC&R comfort control and Building Automation. We also certify our apprentices in OSHA 10, Process Safety management, Signal Person, Welding, and CFC recovery.

Our Journeyman evening continuing education classes consist of Certified Pipe Welding (NCPWB/UA), Instrumentation, Med Gas installation and Brazing, Computer Aided Design and B.I.M, Primavera and Microsoft Projects, Commissioning, Start, Test & Balance of air and water systems and associated equipment and all aspects of HVAC and refrigeration with over 30 courses including chiller teardown\overhaul. These classes are offered from September through May and are held Monday through Thursday from 6:00 pm till 9:00 pm.

Accreditation and Licensure

LU420 Training Center has standards of apprenticeship on file with the US Department of Labor. Inquiries regarding this registration should be addressed to:

US Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training
170 S. Independence Mall West, Suite 820 East
Philadelphia, PA 19106

LU 420 Training Center has standards of apprenticeship on file with the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Sprinkler fitters of the United States and Canada.

LU420 Training Center has been accredited with the Council on Occupational Education. Inquiries regarding this accredited status should be addressed to:

The Council on Occupational Education
7840 Roswell Road
Building 300, Suite 325
Atlanta, GA 30350

LU420 Training Center has been awarded State Licensure by Pennsylvania as a Privately Licensed School.

Articulation Agreements

Local 420 Training Center has Articulation Agreements in place for our members to continue their education at the collegiate level.

Philadelphia Community College has awarded our apprenticeship 33 credits toward an associate degree in Applied Science. This agreement also pertains to the Community Colleges in the 7 surrounding counties of Philadelphia.

Rowan University and our Training Center have an articulation agreement in place for 33 credits toward a bachelor degree in Construction Management.

Local 420 Training Center and Penn State Abington have a memorandum of agreement in place for our members to Continue their education in Project Management Classes taught at our campus by Penn State Instructors. These classes will enable our members to attain a PMP certificate.

Steamfitter Diploma
CIP Code 46.0502

A program that prepares individuals to design, install and test industrial and commercial piping systems. Includes instruction in water systems, steam systems, heating and cooling systems, lubricating systems, piping materials, installation tools operation and maintenance, valve installation and repair, technical mathematics, blueprint interpretation, and applicable codes and standards.

The Steamfitter Program takes 5 years to complete with a total 880 hours of class and lab time and 10,000 hours of on the job training.

Upon Graduation from the program you embark on your Journeyman Career. The policy of 100 % placement 100% of the time follows you throughout your career as long as you are a member in good standing.

In Steamfitters Local 420 we have what is called Open Solicitation. This feature allows our journeyman to sell themselves to over 250 mechanical contractors. It creates a competitive atmosphere in the workplace where a man's reputation grows or shrinks by his performance on the job.

Our members need to stay motivated and continue their education throughout their career by enrolling in our Journeyman Evening classes to assist in enhancing their employability. Our journeymen enjoy solid family sustaining earnings and have the ability to retire with dignity. Our members have the opportunity to advance their career beyond the Journeyman status as well. We have Foreman, General Foreman, Superintendents, Project managers, Planners, Estimators, CAD Designers, Instrument Technicians that have risen through the ranks and all started out as Apprentices.

We are fortunate to live in an area where industry is plentiful. We work in the Refineries, Chemical Plants, Paper Mills and Power Plants. We serve as the backbone of these facilities by maintaining them to peak efficiency no matter the time of day or season of the year. We build and service the Hospitals, Universities, Schools, Office Buildings, Supermarkets and the like. We are a Highly Trained Temporary Workforce who mobilizes to any of these facilities and performs at maximum efficiency and with the utmost professionalism.

Requirements for Application

- Age Requirement:** 18 years of age by the first day of Class:
February 1st or August 1st
- Application Form,** completed and submitted by deadline
- Application Fee:** check or money order, made payable to:
Steamfitters LU 420 Training Fund in the amount of \$25.00
- Birth Certificate,** copy.

- Driver's License, valid State issued, copy
- Drug & Alcohol Policy Form
- Form I9- Employment Eligibility Verification Form
- High School Diploma, copy
- High School Transcript, Official
- High School Equivalency Graduate Requirements- Three (3);
 - GED Certificate, copy
 - GED Test Scores, Official
 - High School Transcript, Official-regarding all high schools attended
- Military ___ Form DD214 Discharge/Separation Form, copy
- *Must have reliable transportation

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS and transcripts are required to be delivered or post marked by the last Friday in October for the February Class or by the last Friday in April for the August class.

Recommended High School Preparatory Courses

English Comprehension, Math, Science, four (4) years

Application Process The application period extends throughout the year and classes start in February and August. Applicants must apply in person with valid driver's license at Steamfitters' Training Center, 14420 Townsend Road, Suite C, Philadelphia, PA 19154, Monday through Friday, during the application period, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Applicants will be given a detailed set of instructions on how to complete the application process upon applying.

The recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or non-job related disability. The sponsor shall take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30 and equal employment opportunity regulations of the commonwealth.

Applicants with completed applications will be notified by **certified mail** for the Mechanical and Spatial Aptitude Test. Applicants notified for the testing must appear at their scheduled date and time (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). After taking the aptitude test, all eligible applicants will be notified by **certified mail** for an interview. The scores from the test and interview will determine acceptance into the apprenticeship program.

Enrollment

Once a student has been notified of their acceptance to the program they must complete BOTH the enrollment agreement document (See Appendix B) and the apprenticeship agreement documents (See Appendices C and D). Until these documents have been completed, no student may start the program.

Registration

Students enrolled in the apprenticeship programs are automatically registered for technical classes each term. Any Journey person wishing to take Continuing Education classes must register by the published deadlines listed on the LU420 Training Center website. Students registering for classes with partnership institutions, e.g., Philadelphia Community College are responsible for meeting the registration deadlines of those institutions.

Outreach:

Local 420 has a website (lu420.com) where anyone can view our student handbook and learn the necessary steps to take to become an apprentice. Our Training Center representatives attend many Career Days throughout the school year in the City of Philadelphia and surrounding counties in attempts to open the eyes of some prospective students who would otherwise have no knowledge of us. More importantly we spend our time in those schools talking with the teachers and guidance people to explain what we do. We are an educated workforce. More than ever before we are filling our apprentice classes with College educated students. We have over 300 apprentices in our program. Over 80% of our current students have at least 2 years of college. 40% of our students have a 4 year degree. The average age of our 1st year apprentice has risen to 25 years old. These are young adults who have been to College. They have been in other businesses and know how hard it is to succeed. They have received the substandard paychecks that are not enough to pay down their student loan debt. They have moved back with Mom and Dad and are trying to get a new start. Our Local 420 Business model has been successful for over 100 years. These apprentices have done their homework and have made an educated decision to carry on our Heritage in the Piping trades. I only wish that the Guidance Counselors and Teachers out there would be more informative to all of their students. Education comes in many forms. Some of it very expensive, some you get for free, and Local 420's you actually earn as you learn. I personally would rather see these students fresh out of High School with NO debt to speak of than see them in the financial situation that a lot of them are in.

Benefits of a 5-Year Apprenticeship

- 1st year apprentices walk onto the job with 8 Hours of Process Management Training which has been tailored to the Steam-fitting trade for Industrial work places. OSHA 10 training for all 1st year apprentices to ensure safe work practices on ALL job-sites. (Industrial, Commercial, Pharmaceutical)
- Over 5 years our Apprentices accumulate 880 hours of Classroom study and Hands on shop Welding , Layout, Fit-up, and Rigging.
- Over 5 years our Apprentices spend between 8,000-10,000 hours of On-The-Job Training under the direct supervision of our Steamfitter Journeyman. This type of hands-on experience in all aspects of Piping ensures a level of quality in our Journeyman that cannot be matched.
- Our Apprentices Graduate from the Program and have certifications in Pipe Welding by the United Association and NCPWB, Certification in Signaling and Rigging from the NCCCO, Certification in Fusion welding, as well as a CFC certification.
- Our Steamfitter Journeyman possess the skills to be able to walk onto any jobsite in any of our diversified industries and perform with a level of efficiency in the piping industry that can be matched by no one. This is the end result of our Training.
- Our membership has the ability to continue their education upon graduation from the program and enroll in our Journeyman advanced courses which are held nightly in our training center and taught by our own Journeymen who have specialized in that particular field. We offer Advanced Welding Techniques, Estimating, Project Planning and Scheduling, Industrial Instrumentation, Med-Gas Installer, and C.A.D design
- The Commitment to Training is unprecedented in the Industry and is done at NO COST to the State or Federal Government. Our Training Center is completely funded by our membership and every dollar that we spend must enhance the employment opportunities of our membership while remaining fiscally responsible to the beneficiaries of the Training Fund.