



MID COAST CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY

361-572-0316 mccademy.org

Mid Coast Construction Academy (MCA) serves as the only regional apprenticeship (and pre-apprenticeship) program of its kind. The 501c3 non-profit program, partnered with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Texas Mid Coast Chapter, and various regional employers and partners, trains Electricians, Plumbers and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) Technicians.

High school students (pre-apprentices) come to the MCA every morning, during the school year, to learn about Electrical, Plumbing, and HVACR. Students from Victoria ISD, St. Joseph High School, Cuero ISD, Hallettsville ISD, Industrial ISD and various homeschool programs, enjoy participating in this career prep program that reinforces soft skills and rewards a good work ethic to prepare students for a pathway to a lucrative career. Pre-apprentices are first introduced to Core, where they learn valuable skills and life lessons, such as: Construction Site Safety, Construction Math, Hand Tools, Power Tools, Construction Drawings, Rigging, Communication Skills, Employability Skills, and Material Handling. They are then instructed in the craft of their choice, with introductory lessons in residential and commercial construction in either Electrical, Plumbing, or HVAC. This experience includes hands-on, project-based lessons to reinforce classroom theory.

MCA's apprenticeship classes are for adult students who can choose Electrical, Plumbing, or HVACR as their occupation. Apprentices work full time, under the supervision of a Journeyman or Master Electrician/Plumber or Licensed HVACR Technician and attend classes two nights a week to learn the theory of their chosen craft. While working in their field, Apprentices document the type of work they are performing and keep track of their "On-the-Job Training" hours. There are 4 levels in Electrical and Plumbing, and 3 levels in HVACR, where Apprentices learn the hows and whys of what they do daily in the field. This is all in preparation for the Apprentices to sit for their State License Exam after completing their last level of coursework and obtaining 8,000 hours of On-the-Job Training (Electrical and Plumbing) or 6,000 hours for HVACR. Apprentices "earn as they learn" while in the program and receive 5% raises for each 1,000 hours they perform on the job. MCA offers job placement assistance for apprentices with sponsor employers through the partnership with ABC.

Instructors are trained craft professionals with many years in the industry and the curriculum is designed by NCCER (The National Center for Construction Education and Research) so it's recognized world-wide and is transferrable. By the time our pre-apprentices graduate high school, they could have as many as 3 craft certifications, plus safety cards for: First Aid/CPR/AED, Fall Protection, Fire Safety, and OSHA-10.

The MCA was founded by ABC to help bridge the employment gap and lessen the shortage of skilled labor in our area. Local construction trade employers are influential in what we teach and how we run the program to ensure that the lessons are applicable on the jobsite.

Please reach out if you have any questions about the program, schedules, applications, pricing, or anything in general.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hilbrich – Education Director