



High School Plumbing Programs

Why Should Districts Consider Offering the Plumbing and Pipefitting Program of Study?

Careers in the plumbing industry can open doors to financial and job security for your students. After completing a Plumbing and Pipefitting program of study, a student can earn the Tradesman Plumber Limited license in high school. This can allow students to expedite a career and education pathway toward practicing as a Journeyman plumber or even Master plumber.

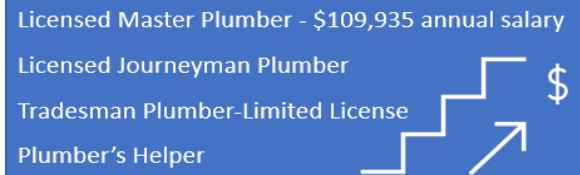
- **Local, Regional, and Statewide Demand** – Districts are charged with supporting the workforce needs of the state and preparing students for in-demand careers. Plumbers are in demand in all regions of the state. Refer to your Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) to review the current and projected openings for plumbers in your region.
- **Willing Employer Partners** – Due to the critical demand for a skilled workforce, employers are willing partners in developing and implementing the Plumbing and Pipefitting program of study. These partners may support a district's efforts to staff courses, procure lab equipment, and establish quality work-based learning (WBL) experiences for students that will help them accrue hours toward their Journeyman Plumber license.
- **Willing Higher Education Partners** – Many community colleges offer strong plumbing preparation programs. By partnering with a higher education partner, a district can hit the ground running with course development and the identification of quality curriculum and instructional materials. By offering dual credit opportunities in the program of study, you can help your students progress even more quickly along the pathway to become a Journeyman plumber.
- **Funding Opportunities to Support Start-up and Implementation** – The three agencies that comprise the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative offer a host of grant opportunities that can support the development and implementation of programs of study. For example, [JET grants](#) can defray the costs of equipment and materials and [Texas Regional Pathways Network](#) grantees receive funds and technical assistance to establish quality regional partnerships that support a specific career pathway like plumbing.

Why Should A Student Consider Being A Plumber?

- **Competitive Salary** – The average salary for a Journeyman plumber in Texas is \$51,000. Experienced Journeyman plumbers can potentially earn up to \$94,000 annually.
- **Job Security** – Texas has 5,773 annual job openings a year. Approximately 20% of plumbers are expected to retire in the next 10 years and 40% are expected to retire in the next 20 years.
- **Earn and Learn** – Students may participate in paid work-based learning (WBL) through the Practicum in Construction Technology course. Working under the Tradesman Plumber-Limited license, they may earn a higher wage.
- **Career Advancement** – Plumbers can increase their income opportunities by becoming Master Plumbers or moving into management positions.
- **Entrepreneurship** – Plumbers have many opportunities to start their own business in addition to working for established plumbing companies.
- **Portability** – Plumbers are needed in large urban metropolitan areas and in the smallest rural communities in Texas. Being a licensed plumber allows you to move into high paying positions across the state or stay close to home.

The Plumbing and Pipefitting Program of Study Helps Students Progress Up a Career Ladder

Licensure is critical to career advancement for plumbers in Texas. Licenses are issued by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners and are mandatory for individuals to work as professional plumbers. The Tradesman Plumber-Limited is the first of three licenses available to plumbers; it is attainable at no cost to high school students who complete the program of study and pass the required exam. To learn more about Tradesman Plumber-Limited examination visit [Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners website](https://www.tspb.com/).



Pathways To Becoming A Journeyman Plumber

Apprenticeship or Plumber’s Helper: After graduation, start work as a Plumber’s Helper, either through an apprenticeship or independently. Complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training under a Master Plumber to be eligible to sit for the Journeyman Plumber exam. (After 4,000 hours, the worker may choose to sit for the Tradesman Plumber-Limited exam; this is not required to progress toward the Journeyman Plumber exam.)

Associate Degree: After graduation, complete a 20-month community college program to qualify to sit for the Journeyman Plumber exam without having to complete the 8,000 hours of on-the-job training.

- **Dual Credit:** Students that have the opportunity to be in a plumbing dual credit program for one year in high school, could potentially complete half of the required courses to earn an associate degree in Plumbing. Students that have the opportunity to complete an associate degree in high school can take the the Journeyman Plumber exam and earn a Journeyman Plumber license when they graduate from high school.

Program of Study Pathway (without work-based learning): Complete the Plumbing and Pipefitting program of study and sit for the Tradesman-Limited exam. After graduation, register with the Plumbing Board and log 8,000 hours under a Master Plumber to be eligible to sit for the Journeyman Plumber exam.

Program of Study Pathway (with 2,000 hours of work-based learning): Register with the Plumbing Board and complete the Plumbing and Pipefitting program of study. Begin earning hours while in high school through career prep and/or practicum courses that enable work-based learning at a job site under a Master Plumber. A student who also works summers and weekends can earn 1,000-2,000 hours towards the 8,000 hours required to apply for the Journeyman Plumber exam.

A student who completes a plumbing and pipefitting program of study is exempt from the 4,000 hours required to take the Tradesman Plumber-Limited exam. A student holding a Tradesman Plumber Limited license can potentially earn a higher wage while completing the remaining hours they need to qualify to take the Journeyman Plumber exam.

Pathway	Year 1 after HS	Year 2 after HS	Year 3 after HS	Year 4 after HS	4-year total
Apprenticeship or Plumber’s Helper	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$136,592
Associate Degree	-\$5,820	-\$5,820	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$84,902
Dual Credit (1 year)	-\$5,820	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$138,993
Dual Credit (2 year)	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$48,271	\$193,084
Program of Study <i>without work hours</i>	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$136,592
Program of Study <i>with 2000 hours</i>	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$34,148	\$48,271	\$150,715

To learn more about the plumbing program of study visit the Texas Education Agency [Career and Technical Education website](https://www.tea.texas.gov/career-technical-education/) or view the Plumbing and Pipefitting program of study [framework document](#).

Data:Source: Lightcast™ . 2022Source: Lightcast™ URL 2022.Products:Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022.

*Before taking the Tradesman Plumber-Limited Examination, a student must have completed a 24-hour training course approved by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.