

HVAC Excellence

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Programmatic Accreditation Final Determination HVACR Technologies

Date

August 22, 2025

Name of School

Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Upper Cumberland
910 Miller Avenue
Crossville, TN 38555 4360

Mr. Cliff Wrightman, President

Mr. Randy Smith, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Instructor

After conducting a thorough review of the submitted self-study materials and the accreditation assessors' team report following their on-site visit, the HVAC Excellence Accreditation Review Board is pleased to grant a six-year accreditation for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Upper Cumberland, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration program.

Program Suggestions

At the recommendations of the HVAC Excellence review board and the onsite accreditation team, it is suggested that the Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Upper Cumberland:

- ensures that program faculty members stay up to date on A2L, low GWP refrigerants, and the refrigerant transitions that are presently in progress.
- adds an R-290 (propane) module to the program's curriculum.
- incorporates low GWP refrigerant training in the program, as program completers need to understand how to safely handle, store, and work with new-generation refrigerants.

- uses the student-built house for Energy Audit Training.
- adds additional eyewash stations to the lab/shop areas.
- mounts first aid kits on the wall.
- seeks a tool purchase program for the students.
- expands the lab/shop areas to accommodate the anticipated student enrollment increase.
- incorporates Department of Energy Heat Pump exams to the student assessment test bank.
- encourages 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.
- supports 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

Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Upper Cumberland is commended and recognized for:

- administrative support for the HVACR program.
- the hospitality and professionalism provided by the college's administration for the onsite team.
- the college's commitment to excellence.
- submitting an excellent self-study.
- the direct hands-on attitude and impressive relationship that President Cliff Wightman and Executive Vice President Stacy Johnson have with staff, faculty, and students.
- the dedication and continued efforts of HVACR instructor, Randy Smith and Vice President of Compliance and Academic Affairs, Wanda Reid for their role in preparing the program's self-study documents and coordinating the activities for the on-site visit.