



Annapolis Valley Campus

Hello and welcome to the Annapolis Valley Campus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest, and answer some questions that you may have regarding our Plumbing Program.

The program is offered between September and May. You will have about 25 hours of instruction per week, including courses in Communications and Computer Applications, 12 hours of "hands on" shop experience, and 9 hours of theory. You must complete and pass all courses in order to be successful in this program.

Fall Semester

Get everyone familiar with the safety aspects of the trade. We spend a number of weeks on the proper procedures required while working on a jobsite and operating the equipment.

We learn about the materials that are used in our systems, and proper installation techniques. We learn how to read, understand and draw basic construction blueprints. We also are required to understand mathematical concepts and calculations as they are an important part of the plumbing trade.

Winter Semester

We review the National Plumbing Code and incorporate the code in a typical residential plumbing system. Teams are put together and various systems are constructed. These set-ups will involve the installation of plumbing fixtures and simple hydronic heating applications.

Spring Semester

You are required to search out and secure a 5 week work place situation with a certified Plumber. The hours you work will be determined by the company that agrees to take you as a trainee for this period. This Work Term is a required component of the Plumbing Program and it is the student's responsibility to secure a placement.

Once you complete the Plumbing Certificate, you are able to proceed into the apprenticeship program in most Canadian provinces. 1000 hours will be credited toward your apprenticeship and you will be exempt from the first 7 week block of trades training. This is a pre-apprenticeship program. Upon completion you will sign up as an apprentice under a certified Plumber, complete about 7000 hours as an apprentice along with additional coursework. At this point, you may write your Red Seal exam and become a journeyman Plumber.

We here in the valley live in a “rural” environment. With this in mind, I tend to structure this program toward this aspect. Additional emphasis is placed on the types of situations you are more likely to run into when working in rural community. All campuses tend to structure their program to suit the needs of their local industry and environment. In our case, I will be covering some items such as pumps, well and septic systems that you will encounter in rural settings.

Our programs at NSCC place importance on certain things- Safety, Attendance and Teamwork. These are items that I stress under all circumstances and are equally important to the core plumbing skills. My philosophy is that we should be able to enjoy ourselves and get the job done in a professional and mutually respectful environment.

This program is exciting, informative and full of surprises. I’m looking forward to meeting you in the near future. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Vern Poschner- Plumbing Faculty

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do to prepare for the course?

1. You will require certified training in First Aid. A course requirement for completion is that you obtain a Level C in Standard First Aid and CPR. You will require this course prior to working in our shop spaces. If you are already certified, please bring in your documentation. The college will arrange training for those who have not completed First Aid.
2. Personal Safety Equipment- You will require CSA approved steel toed work boots, hard hat, safety glasses (clear lens only) and a pair of coveralls. I recommend you label all your things to avoid mix-ups.
3. Personal Tools – You will require your own tape measure (imperial), pencils, utility knife and pocket note book. You may expand on tools later in the program.
4. Preparedness- Please review basic math, reading and writing skills. These skills have been barriers to some students in the past. You may email me at Vernon.poschner@nsc.ca and I will send you some examples.

This course prepares you for the real working world that you will someday encounter. If it helps, you can regard this program as ‘your current job’. My expectation of myself and you is that we commit to learn together, that we attend regularly and strive for a positive attitude and environment.

We also have a document titled Great Expectations. This document was developed to help all of us, students, faculty and staff, think on a consistent basis about what a welcoming, respectful and safe teaching and learning environment. I will be reviewing this document with you in the early days of the program.