



How to Become a Licensed Plumber in Texas

1 Your first step regardless of which path you choose is to get registered as an apprentice with the Texas State Board of Plumbing examiners: <https://tsbpe.texas.gov/license-types/apprentice/>

*You can find the application on this page

2 There are two different pathways to become a licensed plumber in Texas – through an apprenticeship (DOL program) or through working and taking courses on your own (non DOL)

DOL Program	Non DOL Program
2 years (4,000 hrs)	2 years (4,000 hrs)
Written Exam	Written Exam/ Hands on Test*
Tradesman License	Tradesman License
2 years (7,000 hrs)	2 years (8,000 hrs)
Written Exam	Written Exam
Journeyman License	Journeyman License
1 Year (2,000 hrs)	4 Years (8,000 hrs)
Written Exam	Written Exam/ Hands on Test*
Master Plumber License	Master Plumber License
Total Hours: 9,000	Total Hours: 16,000

If you were to take courses on your own, you would need to take:

- For tradesman license: 10 hour OSHA class, 8 hour residential code class, 6 hour continuing education class
- For journeyman license: 10 hour OSHA class, 8 hour residential code class, 18 hour commercial code, and two 6 hour continuing education classes

Note that the plumbing board has made certain exceptions during the pandemic, so check with them for any changes <https://tsbpe.texas.gov/texas-plumbers-important-updates/>

There are a number of other additional endorsements you can take on top of these licenses, but these are the first steps. You need to take one six hour continuing education class per year and renew your license with the plumbing board to maintain your license. If you have endorsements, those may also require additional continuing education.

Source: PHCC-San Antonio Plumbing Licensing Pathways/HBT

We offer all of these classes. We post all current course schedules on our website — https://phcc-tx.org/events/event_list.asp



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PRE-APPRENTICE PROGRAM

This is a good introduction to the field of plumbing. It does not provide you any hours toward your education or hands on hours, but it gives a good overview of the industry. It is free through 2021.

<https://www.phccfoundation.org/foundation/workforce-readiness-course/>



APPRENTICE PROGRAM

In order to enroll in a PHCC apprentice class, you must be part of a member company. Please note that we have started one additional apprentice program in Austin/Buda, we are working to get the information on that program on the site soon.

<https://phcc-tx.org/page/APPRENTICESHIP>



TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS

If you click through "[license types](#)" it gives some information on the requirements for each license. You can also check the [coronavirus information page](#) for any changes or exemptions the board is doing during the pandemic

<https://tsbpe.texas.gov/>

Plumbing Career Facts

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Not only is the plumbing trade looking to grow almost twice the average percentage of all other jobs in the U.S., it remains one of the highest paying trades to enter with little to no previous experience in related fields and no college degree required.

Comparative Education Requirements



Teachers

All teachers require a **4-year degree** and for many, a graduate degree is necessary as well.



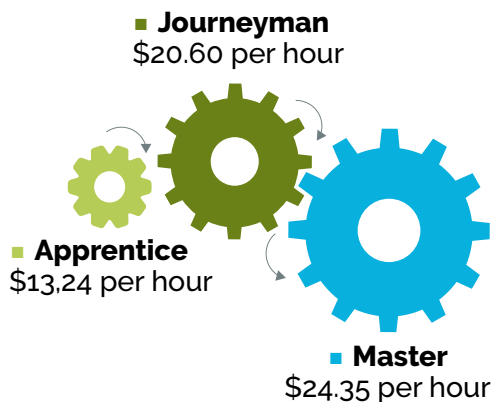
Medical Doctors On average, physicians require a **4-year undergraduate degree, 4-years in medical school**, and a **3-7 year residency** before beginning work



Plumbers receive ON THE JOB TRAINING Beginning work as a plumber requires **no prior education, degrees, or experience**, and only a high school diploma or GED when testing for more advanced Journeyman or Master licensing.

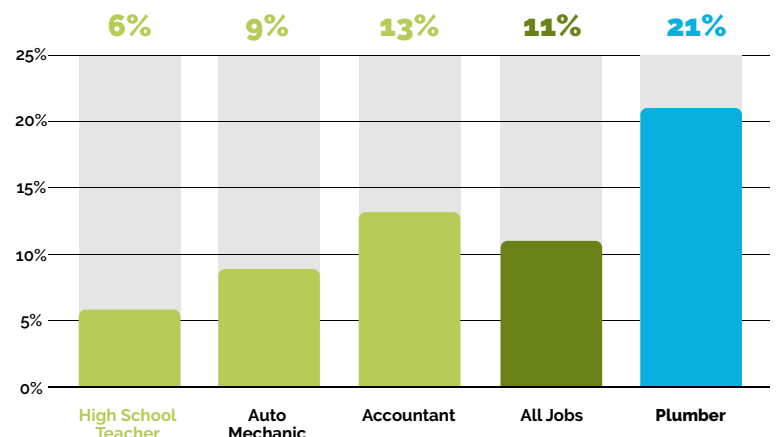
Starting Salaries

Plumbers make a very good living wage and can greatly increase their earnings by pursuing further licensing.



Expected Growth Rate

2012-2022



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics