



# THE PLUMBING ACADEMY, INC.

TIER-PROGRAM STRUCTURE  
On-line, E-learning Lessons

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The Plumbing Academy, Inc. is approved to provide Board of the Examiners of Plumbers and Gas-fitters-BOE, Tier-Program education via the guidelines known as 248 CMR-(Code of Massachusetts Regulation), Section 11.00: Education and Experience Standards and Requirements for Licensure:

“Plumbing”-apprentices who seek to become licensed as journeyman plumbers are required to complete 6,800-hours of on-the-job practical hands-on training and complete 550-hours of code, math and other related academic education.

**[Note: Gas-fitting apprentices who seek to become licensed as journeyman gas-fitters fall under slightly different requirements.]**

Tier-1 110-hours	Any individual exploring the prospect of plumbing apprenticeship can enter into Tier-1 of schooling with TPA and can begin the learning process regardless of whether he/she is employed by a Master plumber.
Tier-2 110-hours (education hours can be completed in same calendar year as Tier-1 schooling)	<p><u>Prior</u> to entering Tier-2 of schooling the apprentice shall have satisfactorily completed <b>Tier-1</b> classes and must be employed by a Master plumber as listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Master plumber and apprentice are required, and shall work together to complete the BOE registration and apprentice licensing process, and</li> <li>2. This shall be completed in compliance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 142, Section 3A and 248 CMR Section 3.03 (2), (a) and (b).</li> </ol>
Tier-3 110-hours (A licensed apprentice is permitted to complete 165 education hours-1.5-tiers annually).	<u>Prior</u> to entering Tier-3 schooling the apprentice shall have satisfactorily completed <b>Tier-2</b> classes and must be employed by a Master plumber.
Tier-4 110-hours (A licensed apprentice is permitted to complete 165 education hours-1.5-tiers annually).	<u>Prior</u> to entering Tier-4 schooling the apprentice shall have satisfactorily completed <b>Tier-3</b> classes and must be employed by a Master plumber.
Tier-5 110-hours (A licensed apprentice is permitted to complete 165 education hours-1.5-tiers annually).	<u>Prior</u> to entering Tier-5 schooling the apprentice shall have satisfactorily completed <b>Tier-4</b> classes and must be employed by a Master plumber.
<b>Apprenticeship Notes:</b>	
Apprenticeship to a Journeyman	So, are you a licensed plumber at the end of your apprenticeship? Not quite! At the end of the academic program and completion of practical work time, apprentices must pass a State licensing exam to become a journeyman-level plumber, which allows them to work independently, and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are limited to six-attempts to pass a State journeyman licensing exam.</li> </ol>
10-Year Limitation	A licensed apprentice must <u>pass</u> a journeyman plumbers licensing examination before such time that 10-calender years of time has lapsed since the initial apprentice license was issued, and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The average apprentice completes this requirement within 6 to 7 years however, that completion is predicated upon continued employment, and</li> <li>2. Failure to meet the 10-year time limit shall require the apprentice to appear before the BOE or forfeit the apprentice license.</li> </ol>
Journeyman to a Master	Journeyman plumbers are eligible to site for a Master plumbers' examination after completing one-full-year as a licensed Journeyman plumber, and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In some limited cases there may be additional schooling involved.</li> </ol>

