

## **Recreation Vehicle Technician Training – Distance Learning**

### **Overview of the Program**

Northampton Community College, in partnership with the Pennsylvania RV & Camping Association is offering a comprehensive program consisting of three, 15-week, non-credit distance learning courses in RV Technician Training.

The goal of this distance learning program is to provide the student with the knowledge of basic troubleshooting, repair and maintenance procedures for a career in the RV Industry at any dealership or service facility. The knowledge gained through the successful completion of this program will prepare those students for official certification under the auspices of RVIA and RVDA. There is no degree or certification process for simply taking the courses.

This program is appropriate for anyone interested in the technicalities of recreation vehicles and who wish to make a career move into a field where there exists a national shortage of qualified technicians. Successful students will have the potential to be gainfully employed anywhere there are RVs. High volume mega-dealers and independent non-selling service facilities alike are always looking for qualified service technicians. Some proactive students may even consider self-employment a viable option.

### **How is the Program Organized?**

The program consists of nine (9) different courses administered over three consecutive semesters. Though enrollment in consecutive semesters is not mandated, it is recommended since each course will follow a logical path and all courses are necessary for industry certification. Additionally, completion of all online course requirements is mandatory, as is satisfactory completion of all hands-on requirements conducted independently in the field.

### **What Will I Learn? What Will I Do?**

Each lesson will follow the textbooks published by RVIA. (The textbooks are currently under revision and will be available at the start of the RV Technician Training Program). You will read and study a brief history of recreation vehicles and then delve right into the safe use of tools and specialized equipment. The role of the RV service technician in the shop will also be studied along with record keeping, customer service and other jobs you may qualify for after the training.

Each of the major systems found on recreation vehicles will be dissected and studied; the LP system, the plumbing systems and the electrical systems. The program continues with the theory of operation and the troubleshooting and repair of the major appliances found in RVs, including the air conditioner, the absorption refrigerator, the furnace and the water heater. Total coach preventive maintenance will also be studied.

You will work primarily on your own but have regular discussions and interactions with the instructor and other students in one of the Discussion Forums that will be established. Additionally, you will be required to make contact with an existing RV dealer or aftermarket service center for assistance in passing the “hands-on” assignments.

## **Course Information**

Using reading assignments, quizzes, web research, discussion forums, exams and field exercises you will gain a fundamental understanding of RV repair. At the successful completion of the program, students will be able to function at the technician entry level at any RV dealership or service facility.

There will be weekly assignments and an occasional “pop quiz” and a comprehensive final exam. Each course has a Pass/Fail grading system. You will receive a Certificate of Completion upon successful completion of all program requirements.

## **Course Schedule**

The course follows a Monday to Sunday schedule. You can begin the coursework for a given class on each Monday at 8 AM (PST). All coursework requirements for the week are due the following Sunday by 8 PM (PST).

You can work ahead, though it is not recommended as additional comments by the Instructor may be inserted at any time during each lesson. If you must retake a quiz or hands-on component due to a failing grade, you are given one additional week beyond the due date to submit the required materials.

## **Course Activities**

The course includes both lecture and hands-on elements. Following is an overview of the types of activities that can be expected for each component.

1. Lecture: (Instructor directs students)
  - ◆ Readings from text
  - ◆ Material Review from external sources
  - ◆ Web site research
  - ◆ Discussion Forums
  - ◆ Quizzes and Exams
2. Hands-on: (Preceptor directs student and reports back to Instructor)
  - ◆ Completion of required activities on checklist

The student will complete the majority of assignments – website research, discussion forum, quizzes and exams – within the Blackboard Distance Learning environment. Some activities will require the use of email. Some assignments may be submitted in Microsoft Word and emailed to the instructor.

Each student is required to visit a local RV dealer or RV service center and obtain the names and business contact information of the Owner/General Manager and the Service Manager and email them to the Instructor. The Instructor will then contact that facility and make arrangements for someone at that shop to fulfill the role of the Preceptor.

This is very important since some hands-on assignments will require verification by an approved individual. If you do not live within a reasonable driving distance of a RV facility, it is the student’s responsibility to email the Instructor immediately so alternative arrangements can be made.

## **Course Requirements**

### ◆ Textbooks Required

1. Introduction to Recreation Vehicle Service
2. Propane Systems
3. Plumbing Systems
4. Electrical Systems
5. Air Conditioning
6. Refrigerators
7. Heating Systems
8. Water Heaters
9. Preventive Maintenance

All the textbooks are published by: RVIA  
1896 Preston White Drive  
Reston, VA 20191

They may be ordered and shipped through the Northampton Community College Bookstore or by contacting RVIA directly.

◆ Tools – Chapter 4 in the textbook, Introduction to Recreation Vehicle Service, lists several tools used by individual RV service technicians. As a prerequisite to this course, please read page 4-2. It is highly recommended that the student acquire tools that are listed in the manual. For information on free or discounted tools, see information about Tools for Techs. RV service technicians are expected to own their own hand tools as a condition of employment.

◆ Technology – Internet and email access (dial-up modem connection is sufficient, though hi-speed access is recommended). Experience doing web searches is vital.

### **What is the Advantage to Web-based Learning?**

It allows you to do the course work on your own time, at your convenience, from the comfort of your own home. It is available 24 hours every day and you can log on and off when it is convenient for you.