

Someday I'd like to be an...

HVAC Technician

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Meet David LeGoullon

HVAC Tech

WakeMed Health & Hospitals

"I like to fix things. Being a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) tech gives me the opportunity to get things working again, whether it's electrical or mechanical."

TYPICAL WORK DAY

On a typical day, I perform regular maintenance on equipment from changing air filters, motors and bolts to cleaning coils with a cleaning solution and pulling wires. I rotate being on-call every six weeks for 24 hours a day. It can be hectic during those times because you are dealing with a wide variety of maintenance issues like leaks or temperature issues in patient rooms. The most important aspect of my job is making sure the system is working properly in all different areas of the hospital. For example, I have to check air changes in the operating room 20 times an hour to be sure air is being forced out of the room and not into the room. This prevents germs from getting into the operating room and helps reduce the chance of infection to the patient.

WHY I CHOSE THIS CAREER

Since I like fixing things and am mechanically inclined, I decided HVAC would be a good career for me. I chose to work in a hospital because I like the added challenge a hospital offers. The HVAC units are typically larger and more complex.

MOST REWARDING PART OF MY JOB

I like being able to help people by getting equipment to work the way it should. Everyone at WakeMed is a customer- patients, visitors and even fellow employees - so it's nice to be able to fix things for them and make them comfortable.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND/PRIOR EXPERIENCE

I worked in maintenance at an oil refinery before moving to North Carolina. Once I was here, I went to school at Wake Tech Community College and earned my HVAC certification. I also have my refrigerant license, which is required for this career. I got a job at Johnson Controls, where I was assigned to work at WakeMed for a couple of days a week, and that's how I learned about my current job.

SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO FOCUS ON

I recommend studying HVAC. Math also helps you understand and safely handle electricity.

