Due to its niche nature, plumbing engineering offers a long, stable, and profitable career, but breaking into the profession can be challenging if employers aren’t aware of your unique skills. That’s where the Certified Plumbing Design Technician (CPDT) credential can help. As the only credential specific to plumbing system designers early in their careers, the CPDT provides immediate recognition of individuals skilled in this trade. That’s why Ashley Turlington, CPDT, recommends earning the designation. “Companies seek candidates with credentials pertinent to their field,” she says. “The CPDT can open up a lot of professional opportunities.”

**DEMONSTRATE YOUR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE**

Administered by the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), the CPDT program provides a standard of professional competence in the practice of plumbing design at the technician level. Employers are assured that designers who have earned the CPDT credential have the requisite knowledge and skills to excel in their company. This is one of the primary reasons individuals pursue the designation. “I earned my CPDT credential to demonstrate my technical knowledge of plumbing, and it has given me better recognition as a well-rounded plumbing designer,” says John Lansing, CPDT, LEED Green Associate.

**VALIDATION OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Through its rigorous processes, the CPDT program identifies professionals who have demonstrated their expertise and abilities in the field of plumbing design. The certification exam tests an individual’s proficiency in skills that employers desire, such as laying out systems, sizing calculations, selecting equipment, and preparing documentation. The test specifications and content reflect the abilities essential to performing at the technician level of a plumbing designer.

The CPDT credential gives you “more respect, validation of your accomplishments, and [subsequently] more compensation,” says Justin Wroblewski, CPDT.

**IMPROVE YOUR VALUE TO YOUR COMPANY**

The CPDT program’s recertification requirement means that CPDTs must stay current on new techniques and technologies through continuing education, which is a desirable trait to employers who are looking for an edge in the competitive MEP market. Having CPDTs on their staff showcases a firm’s expertise and their commitment to maintaining the highest, most up-to-date design standards. “My CPDT credential has allowed my company to get better jobs because clients view us as more knowledgeable,” Turlington says. And the benefit is mutual. “Taking the step to improve your value to your company will also benefit your career,” says Wroblewski.

**HOW TO ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER**

The CPDT program is designed for plumbing system designers with less than eight years of professional experience, and the exam is held annually at online testing sites around the world. If you are planning on achieving ASPE’s internationally renowned Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD) credential, the CPDT is an excellent starting point.

To learn more and start accelerating your career, visit aspe.org/CPDT.