**Top 6 Excuses for not earning a Professional Credential.**

How many times over the years have you thought, I would like to earn my professional credential? or I would really like to learn more about my field? or wouldn’t it be cool to have some letters after my name - prove to my boss or more importantly to myself that I have mastery in my profession. There are lots of excuses we tell ourselves for why we cannot earn a credential. Which one of these excuses is holding you back?

* **1. I do not have time.** We are always busy; we have families and demanding jobs and perhaps there is a schoolhouse in your living room right now. Busy is a constant state. Yes, getting a credential does require time for studying and passing the tests and yes it can take away from other important things. However, if you break it into small components and stay on track with the course structure, you can realistically achieve your credential in 3-4 months. That is not forever, that is a moment in time. It is totally achievable.
* **2. It is expensive.** We invest in our homes, we invest in our kids and their future, and we invest in our retirement. Consider the cost of a credential as an investment in yourself. An opportunity to better equip yourself for the next project, the next promotion, or the next job. One promotion will more then cover the cost of a training class if you must cover it yourself. Fortunately, many companies today understand the value of education and will cover the costs for professional development courses - a quick call to HR may be all that it takes to get started.
* **3. I am not good at taking tests.** Many of us are not. Did you know you can learn to be a better test taker? There are tips and techniques to help you properly read through questions to find the best right answer. And there are strategies for studying and preparing that can set you up for success. The tests are challenging, and it does take effort and work, but I have nearly 500 credentialed students over the past 10 years who will tell you if they can get through it, so can you.
* **4. It has been 20 years since I have been in school.** Professional development courses are geared for the adult learner. We know it has been a while since you cracked open a textbook or spent 2 hours a night reading and studying in preparation for a test. But we are never too old to learn. I find adult learners to be engaging, inquisitive, committed, and attentive. When you were a kid going to school – it was something you had to do. As an adult this is your choice. You are choosing to learn, choosing to grow and that makes the experience of going ‘back to school’ successful. You understand the value and you have set a goal that you want to achieve.
* **5. I learn best on the job.** On the job experience is essential for learning and honing our skills. Professional development is about exposing you to new ideas, new processes, and new perspectives. Credential training takes what you have learned and challenges you to go above and beyond. We do not know what we do not know - until we stop, sit, and listen. Our FM world will constantly be changing – there will always be more to learn. I did not know what a MERV 13 filter was until a few months ago. Credential courses are also a fantastic way to learn from your colleagues. A class of likeminded people from all sorts of industries is a tremendous way to hear and share stories and build your network.
* **6. I am afraid I will lose focus.** The to do lists for work and home that are constantly pulling at us is exceptionally long. It is easy to put off studying or taking an assessment until tomorrow or the next day or the next. A good training program should be designed to help you stay accountable - with milestones and dates to work towards, regular progress check ins, and sticking with you until you cross the finish line. An instructor who will be there with you every step of the way.

Still uncertain? It may seem daunting, but like many things in life­­ hard work and effort can really pay off. The truth is the biggest leap you may need to take is telling yourself that you are ready to commit to earning your credentials. The rest will take care of itself.

So instead of focusing on the excuses perhaps now is the time to focus on what you gain. When you earn your credential, you earn more then those letters after your name. You will earn a new sense of confidence, pride, and achievement. You will gain respect from your management, your co-workers, and your colleagues. ­

Now is the perfect time to explore your [options](http://www.afdfacilityplanning.com/id64.html), a virtual ProFM credential class is enrolling students now!