

# Information Concerning Employment and Training in the U.S. Merchant Marine







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in the  
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*The Maritime Administration would like to thank these schools for permitting the use of their photographs in this brochure:*

- California Maritime Academy
- Great Lakes Maritime Academy
- Maine Maritime Academy
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Paul Hall Center
- Texas A&M University
- SUNY Maritime College
- United States Merchant Marine Academy

# INTRODUCTION

Many fascinating careers are available in the maritime industry which offers:

- Extensive travel to interesting ports of call
- Responsibility
- Excellent pay and good benefits

Maritime careers typically belong to one of these shipboard departments:

- **Deck** — navigation, cargo handling, and management
- **Engineering** — propulsion, maintenance, and management
- **Steward/hotel** — food services, sanitation, and accommodations

Some vessels will also have a “Supply Department” which is typically a combination of the steward’s department and those crewmembers who perform storekeeping duties. Additionally some vessels carry communications and/or medical personnel.

Almost anyone can find a job in the maritime industry by:

- Contacting a **maritime company** or **union**
- Contacting a **maritime crewing agency**
- Attending a **maritime technical training school**
- Attending a **maritime academy** or a **maritime college** to become a licensed officer

The U.S. merchant marine consists of privately-owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships, and a variety of towing, offshore supply and passenger vessels, which provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. Employment on these vessels is the responsibility of the

ship owners and is handled by maritime labor organizations or through direct employment by the operating company.

Part-time or summer employment is available in some sectors of the maritime industry such as the passenger vessel industry. The level of seafaring employment available is determined by the state of the U.S. economy, world business conditions, and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment and related maritime education and training programs. Primary shipboard employment categories include deep seas, Great Lakes, towing and barges, inland and coastal waters, passenger vessels, and offshore and mineral operations.

Other areas of employment in the maritime industry include shipbuilding and repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, and intermodal logistics.

For information on employment in these areas, visit the Maritime Administration's web site at ***www.marad.dot.gov***.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

The Maritime Administration does not directly hire merchant mariners but serves as a resource, providing information regarding many career opportunities available to those interested in becoming merchant mariners. The Maritime Administration office that coordinates information on seafaring employment and training is the Office of Maritime Workforce Development. Contact the office by telephone at (202) 493-0029; or by e-mail at [careersafloat@dot.gov](mailto:careersafloat@dot.gov) or by mail at:

Maritime Administration (MAR 740)  
Office of Maritime Workforce Development  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20590

### **TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL**

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) is a tamper-resistant, biometric credential for workers that require unescorted access to secure areas of ports, vessels, or outer continental shelf facilities, such as U.S. Coast Guard-credentialed merchant mariners, port facility employees, long-shoremen, and truck drivers. Since April 15, 2009, all mariners have been required by law to hold a TWIC in order obtain or maintain U.S. Coast Guard credentials.

Individuals that need the TWIC must enroll in the program in person at a TSA enrollment center. A list of enrollment center locations is available by calling the TWIC Call Center at 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942), or by visiting the TSA web site online at [twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov/twicinfo](http://twicinformation.tsa.dhs.gov/twicinfo).

Note: For the latest updates, contact the TWIC Call Center or logon to the TWIC web site listed above.

## **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

The U. S. Coast Guard is a part of the Department of Homeland Security and is the regulatory agency responsible for credentialing U.S. merchant mariners.

All mariners working aboard vessels larger than 100 gross registered tons must possess both a TWIC and a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). The MMC is explained on page 7 of this brochure. Credentialing of mariners is coordinated through the Coast Guard's regional examination centers (REC). Those interested in employment afloat should contact the nearest REC for an explanation of regulations and application submission assistance. The National Maritime Center Help Desk can also be contacted about credentialing questions or concerns toll-free at 1-888-I ASK NMC or 1-888-427-5662.

### **USCG REGIONAL EXAMINATION CENTERS**

#### **ALASKA, Anchorage**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
800 E. Diamond Blvd., Suite 3-227  
Anchorage AK 99515  
telephone: (907) 271-6736

#### **ALASKA, Juneau**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A  
Juneau AK 99801-8545  
telephone: (907) 463-2458

#### **CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles/Long Beach**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
501 W. Ocean Blvd, Suite 6200  
Long Beach CA 90802  
telephone: (562) 495-1480



**CALIFORNIA, Oakland**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Oakland Federal Bldg., North Tower  
1301 Clay Street, Room 180N  
Oakland CA 94612-5200  
telephone: (510) 637-1124

**FLORIDA, Miami**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Claude Pepper Federal Building  
51 S.W. 1st Ave., 6th Floor  
Miami FL 33130-1608  
telephone: (305) 536-6548 or 536-6874

**HAWAII, Honolulu**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
433 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu HI 96813-4909  
telephone: (808) 522-8264

**LOUISIANA, Mandeville**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
4250 Hwy 22, Suite F  
Mandeville LA 70471  
telephone: (985) 624-5700

**MARYLAND, Baltimore**

U.S. Coast Guard (REC)  
U.S. Customs House  
40 South Gay Street  
Baltimore MD 21202-4022  
telephone: (410) 962-5132

**MASSACHUSETTS, Boston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
455 Commercial Street  
Boston MA 02109-1045  
telephone: (617) 223-3040

**MISSOURI, St. Louis**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
1222 Spruce Street, Room 7105  
St. Louis MO 63103-2846  
telephone: (314) 269-2504

**NEW YORK, New York**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
Battery Park Building  
1 South Street  
New York NY 10004-1466  
telephone: (212) 668-7492

**OHIO, Toledo**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
420 Madison Ave., Suite 700  
Toledo OH 43604  
telephone: (419) 418-6010

**OREGON, Portland**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
911 NE 11th Avenue, Room 637  
Portland OR 97232-4169  
telephone: (503) 231-2296

**SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
196 Tradd Street  
Charleston SC 29401-1899  
telephone: (843) 720-3250

**TENNESSEE, Memphis**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
200 Jefferson Ave., Suite 1302  
Memphis TN 38103  
telephone: (901) 544-3297

**TEXAS, Houston**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
8876 Gulf Freeway, Suite 200  
Houston TX 77017-6595  
telephone: (713) 948-3350

**WASHINGTON, Seattle**

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)  
915 Second Ave., Room 194  
Seattle WA 98174-1067  
telephone: (206) 220-7327

This list is also available at:

***[www.uscg.mil/nmc](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc)***

## **CREDENTIALS**

### **Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)**

The U.S. Coast Guard has consolidated four credentials that were previously issued separately to merchant mariners:

- (1) Licenses
- (2) Certificate of Registry
- (3) Merchant Mariner Document
- (4) STCW Certification

All merchant mariner credentials issued after April 15, 2009, are being printed in the new, consolidated Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) format.

### **Applying for an original MMC**

- No evidence of service is required to obtain a MMC with an entry level rating endorsement. Individuals seeking a qualified rating endorsements must show evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training. Mariners in qualified ratings who wish to sail internationally will also need basic safety training to obtain an International Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) endorsement.

### **The specific requirements for an original MMC are:**

- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.
- An applicant must submit evidence of either possessing a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (such as a photocopy of the TWIC), or that the application for a TWIC has been completed.

- An applicant must provide a Chemical Testing Report dated within six months of your application.
- An applicant must have had a physical examination within 12 months of their application and provide a signed Physical Examination Report utilizing the appropriate USCG form
- Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug-related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register (NDR) motor vehicle convictions ***may not*** be eligible for an MMC.
- Application forms and all other necessary forms can be obtained from any U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Center (REC). The forms are also available for download online at the USCG's National Maritime Center web site:  
***www.uscg.mil/nmc .***
- The MMC package should be submitted to any Regional Examination Center. Sending the package to the National Maritime Center will cause delays. To find the correct mailing address of any REC, visit the web site listed above or refer to the list printed in this pamphlet on pages 4-6.
- Mariners do not need to visit a REC in person and may complete all transactions by mail.
- Once the MMC is issued to the applicant, the document will look and feel like a U.S. passport; however, the MMC is NOT a passport and, therefore, cannot be used as a substitute for a passport.

- Mariners who sail on vessels outside of U.S. waters must obtain their own passport from the U.S. Department of State. For information on obtaining a U.S. passport, visit the State Department's web site at:

***[www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport)***

- Photographs to be used in the MMC will be electronically forwarded from the Transportation Security Administration.

- The Coast Guard is required *by law* to collect a user fee for the evaluation and documentation process. Current fees are explained online at ***[www.uscg.mil/nmc](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc)***.

After submission, the status of an MMC application can be tracked on the NMC web site at ***[www.uscg.mil/nmc](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc)***, or by calling 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662).

#### **ALSO IMPORTANT:**

For a list of items to submit with an MMC application, download a copy of the MMC application acceptance checklist at:

***[www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements.asp)***

## **MARTIME EMPLOYMENT**

### **Deep Sea**

Employment aboard ocean and coastal U.S.-flag ships is usually handled by either the maritime labor unions or ship operators. Information on high seas shipboard employment is available through several maritime industry contacts including:

## **MARITIME LABOR UNIONS**

### **Seafarers International Union**

P.O. Box 75  
Piney Point MD 20674  
telephone: (877) 235-3275  
*[www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org)*

### **Sailors Union of the Pacific**

450 Harrison Street  
San Francisco CA 94105  
telephone: (415) 777-3400  
*[www.sailors.org](http://www.sailors.org)*

### **Marine Firemen's Union**

240 Second Street  
San Francisco CA 94105  
telephone: (415) 362-4592  
*[www.mfoww.org](http://www.mfoww.org)*

### **American Maritime Officers**

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7204  
Washington DC 20024  
telephone: (202) 479-1166  
*[www.amo-union.org](http://www.amo-union.org)*

### **Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association**

District No. 1-MEBA  
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington DC 20001  
telephone: (202) 638-5355  
*[www.d1meba.org](http://www.d1meba.org)*

### **International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots**

700 Maritime Blvd.  
Linthicum Heights MD 21090  
telephone: (410) 850-8700  
*[www.bridgedeck.com](http://www.bridgedeck.com)*

## **Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide**

The Maritime Administration publishes the Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide that provides additional information on the major maritime management and trade organizations, the seafaring labor organizations, and many U.S.-flag ship operator companies. Copies are available online at [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov), or from:

Office of Sealift Support (MAR-630)  
Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20590  
telephone: (202) 366-2646

## **U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command**

The Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) operates numerous merchant-type ships staffed with civilian crews employed as civil servants. For further information, contact:

MSC, CIVMAR Support Center  
6353 Center Drive  
Building 8, Suite 202  
Norfolk VA 23502  
telephone: (877) 562-7672  
[www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com)

## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Opportunities operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most afloat personnel are civil servants. Detailed employment information is available online at [www.commerce.gov/jobs](http://www.commerce.gov/jobs).

## **Great Lakes - Towing and Barge - Coastal and Inland Waters**

**The American Waterways Operators (AWO)** is a national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO has over 400 member companies that operate throughout the United States on rivers, canals, ports and harbors, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. Detailed information on the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry and a list of AWO's member companies are available online at [www.americanwaterways.com](http://www.americanwaterways.com) .

**The Lake Carriers Association**, Suite 915, 614 Superior Avenue, Cleveland OH 44113, represents 18 U.S.-flag companies operating 62 vessels on the Great Lakes and can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for mariners. Contact them by phone at (216) 861-0592, or via e-mail: [info@lcaships.com](mailto:info@lcaships.com) , or visit their web site at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com) .

**Passenger Vessel Association** focuses on the issues and concerns of owners and operators of passenger vessels, manufacturers of maritime-related products and services and other service companies dedicated to achieving a common goal and working to develop a superior business environment for all. The association's address is 901 N. Pitt Street-Suite 100, Alexandria VA 22314. The toll-free number is (800) 807-8360, and the web site is [www.passengervessel.com](http://www.passengervessel.com) .

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** operates floating equipment necessary to maintain and improve the nation's navigable waterways. These vessels are staffed by civil service employees, but employment opportunities are limited. Federal employment opportunities that do exist with the Corps are advertised on the Office of Personnel Management web site online at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) .



## **Offshore Oil and Mineral**

**Offshore Marine Services Association, Inc. (OMSA)** is an association of companies that operate oil and mineral vessels such as crew and supply boats, which support offshore oil and mineral rigs and platforms. OMSA's web site on the Internet contains listings of companies and employment contacts at *[www.offshoremarine.org](http://www.offshoremarine.org)*.

### **Additional maritime job opportunities**

These web sites also provide information on available job opportunities in the maritime industry:

- *[www.goships.com](http://www.goships.com)*
- *[www.shiptalkjobs.com](http://www.shiptalkjobs.com)*
- *[www.findmaritimejobs.com](http://www.findmaritimejobs.com)*
- *[www.maritimejobs.com](http://www.maritimejobs.com)*

## MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### **Maritime-themed schools**

Maritime programs are offered in various middle and high schools around the country. These programs provide rigorous academic programs with a focus on maritime studies, science, and technology. They also provide students the opportunity to enter maritime careers upon graduation or to pursue further advanced maritime education at a vocational school, community college, service academy or maritime academy.

Contact the U.S. Department of Education or the Association for Career and Technical Education for information regarding maritime-themed schools.

A list of high schools or associations with maritime-oriented programs is available online at [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov). Once there, click on the “Education” heading.

### **Maritime Academies**

There are seven maritime academies in the United States that educate and train individuals to become officers in the merchant marine. Graduates receive college degrees and U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credentials with STCW endorsements as deck or engineering officers.

#### **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

300 Steamboat Road  
Kings Point NY 11024  
telephone: (516) 773-5000  
[www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

#### **California Maritime Academy**

200 Maritime Academy Drive  
Vallejo CA 94590  
telephone: (707) 654-1000  
[www.csum.edu](http://www.csum.edu)

**Great Lakes Maritime Academy**  
Northwestern Michigan College  
1701 East Front Street  
Traverse City MI 49686  
telephone: (800) 748-0566, extension 1200  
*[www.nmc.edu/maritime](http://www.nmc.edu/maritime)*

**Maine Maritime Academy**  
Castine ME 04420-5000  
telephone: (800) 464-6565 (in state)  
(800) 227-8465 (out-of-state)  
*[www.mainemaritime.edu](http://www.mainemaritime.edu)*

**Massachusetts Maritime Academy**  
101 Academy Drive  
Buzzards Bay MA 02532  
telephone: (508) 830-5000  
*[www.maritime.edu](http://www.maritime.edu)*

**State University of New York Maritime College**  
6 Pennyfield Avenue  
Throggs Neck NY 10465  
telephone: (718) 409-7220  
*[www.sunymaritime.edu](http://www.sunymaritime.edu)*

**Texas Maritime Academy**  
Texas A&M University at Galveston  
Box 1675  
Galveston TX 77553-1675  
telephone: (877) 322-4443  
*[www.tamug.edu/corps](http://www.tamug.edu/corps)*

## **Maritime Industry-affiliated schools**

The U.S. maritime industry operates high quality, state-of-the-art training facilities that provide a wide variety of courses for mariners entering the industry as well as those upgrading professional qualifications.

### **Calhoon MEBA Engineering School**

27050 Saint Michaels Road  
Easton MD 21601  
telephone: (410) 822-9600

***www.mebaschool.org***

### **Andrew Furuseth School of Seamanship**

450 Harrison Street  
San Francisco CA 94405  
telephone: (415) 777-3400

***www.sailors.org***

### **Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)**

692 Maritime Boulevard  
Linthicum MD 21090  
telephone: (866) 656-5568

***www.mitags.org***

### **Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)**

1729 Alaskan Way South  
Seattle WA 98134  
telephone: (888) 893-7829

***www.mates.org***

### **Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education**

Box 75  
Piney Point MD 20674-0075  
telephone: (301) 994-0010  
(877) 235-3275 toll-free

***www.seafarers.org/phc***

### **RTM STAR Center**

2 West Dixie Highway  
Dania Beach FL 33004  
telephone: (954) 921-7254;  
(800) 445-4522, toll free

***www.star-center.com***

## **Maritime Administration Marine Fire Fighting Training**

The Maritime Administration operates the Great Lakes Fire Training Center. The center trains mariners to extinguish fires in a realistic setting on a ship-like structure. The training meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements for training and certification of seamen. To find out more, contact:

Maritime Administration  
Fire Training Center  
2600 S. Eber Road  
Swanton OH 43558  
telephone: (419) 574-1965  
e-mail: GLFireschool@dot.gov

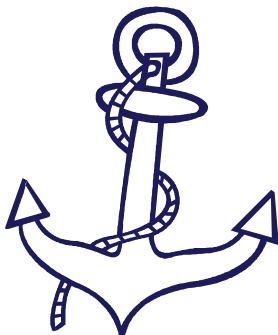
### **Other schools with maritime training**

Numerous schools exist around the country that provide maritime training for new and experienced mariners.

In January 2009 there were more than 1,750 Coast Guard-approved courses offered by 245 training providers. A current listing of these courses and providers is available for online at the USCG web site:

***[www.uscg.mil/nmc/mmic\\_appcourses.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/mmic_appcourses.asp)***

Additional schools are listed on the “Careers Afloat” web site at ***[www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov)***. Click on the “Education” heading.









**Maritime Administration**  
*<http://www.marad.dot.gov>*

- or -

**U.S. Coast Guard**  
**for information on**  
**mariner credentialing**  
*<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc>*

