



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





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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 and adventure
- Responsibility
- Excellent pay and benefits

Mariners 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 stewards 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 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 owners and is handled by maritime labor organizations or through direct employment by the 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 is determined by the state of U.S. and 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 sea, 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, please visit the Maritime Administration's website at <http://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 career opportunities available to those interested in becoming merchant mariners. The Maritime Administration office which coordinates information on seafaring employment and training is:

Office of Maritime Workforce Development
U.S. Maritime Administration (MAR 740)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590.
Phone: (202) 493-0029
Email: careersafloat@dot.gov.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG), part of the Department of Homeland Security, is the regulatory agency responsible for licensing and certifying U.S. merchant mariners working aboard those vessels which require credentialed mariners.

Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)

In 2009, the Coast Guard consolidated four previously issued credentials for merchant mariners (Licenses, Certificates of Registry, Merchant Mariner Documents – also known as a “Z-cards” – and STCW certificates into the Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC).

To obtain an MMC

- You must submit evidence that you hold a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) (photocopy of TWIC) or that you have applied for a TWIC (TWIC application receipt). Further information on the TWIC is in the next section of this pamphlet.
- You must be at least 16 years of age. If you are less than 18 years old you must present a notarized statement of consent from a parent or guardian.
- You must report any narcotics, DWI/DUI, and other criminal convictions and agree to a National Driver Registry check. “Conviction” means that you have been found guilty by judgment or by plea and includes cases of deferred adjudication (no contest, adjudication withheld, etc.) or where the court required you to attend classes, make contribution of time or money, receive treatment, submit to any manner of probation or supervision, or forego appeal of a trial court finding. Expunged convictions must be reported unless the expungement was based upon a showing that the court’s earlier conviction was in error.
- Some convictions make an applicant ineligible to receive a TWIC and, therefore, an MMC.
- Application forms can be found on the USCG National Maritime Center (MMC) website (www.uscg.mil/nmc) or may be obtained from a Regional Exam Center (REC). To find the nearest REC, visit the NMC website at: www.uscg.mil/nmc or call 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662)
- Applicants must complete a physical examination using the form which is part of the Coast Guard’s application package
- Applicants must present evidence of passing a drug test.

- The MMC application package should be submitted directly to an REC. Sending the package to the NMC will cause it to be delayed while the NMC sends the package to an REC for coordination.
- Since you have legally certified your identity by applying for a TWIC, you need not visit the REC in person; you may complete all transactions by mail.
- The MMC looks and feels like a passport; however, it is NOT a substitute for a passport.
- Photographs to be used on the MMC will be electronically forwarded from the Transportation Security Administration to the Coast Guard.
- The Coast Guard is required by law to collect a user fee for the MMC evaluation and documentation process. You should visit the NMC website at www.uscg.mil/nmc to determine the current fees.
- Once your application has been submitted, you can check its status on the NMC website or by calling 1-888-I-ASK-NMC (1-888-427-5662).
- For a list of items to submit with your MMC application package, please download a copy of the MMC Application Acceptance Checklist at: www.uscg.mil/nmc

TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL (TWIC)

TWICs are tamper-resistant biometric credentials issued by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to credentialed merchant mariners, port facility employees, long-shore workers, truck drivers, and others requiring unescorted access to secure areas of maritime facilities and vessels regulated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). To obtain a TWIC, you must complete the enrollment process at a TWIC enrollment center and pay the enrollment fee.

Individuals who

- were convicted of certain crimes,
- lack lawful presence and certain immigration status in the United States,
- are connected to terrorist activity, or
- have been determined to lack mental capacity are ineligible for a TWIC.

A list of enrollment centers and their locations is on the TSA website at: www.tsa.gov/twic or by calling the TWIC call center at 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942).

Note: information regarding the TWIC is correct as of the printing of this brochure. To ensure you have the latest information, please call the TWIC call center or log onto the TWIC website.

USCG Regional Examination Centers (REC)

Credentialing of mariners is coordinated at the USCG's RECs. Those interested in employment on a vessel should contact the nearest REC for an explanation of regulations and assistance with submitting their application package. Individuals may also contact the NMC Help Desk with credentialing questions.

The Coast Guard requests that all phone enquiries be routed through the NMC at 1-888-427-5662

ALASKA, Anchorage

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
800 E. Diamond Blvd. Suit 3-227
Anchorage, AK 99515

ALASKA, Juneau

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
910 Mendenhall Mall Rd, Suit 170
Juneau, AK 99801

CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles/Long Beach

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
501 W. Ocean Blvd, Suit 6200
Long Beach, CA 90802

CALIFORNIA, Oakland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Oakland Federal Bldg, North Tower
1301 Clay Street, Room 180N
Oakland, CA 94612-520

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

HAWAII, Honolulu

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

LOUISIANA, Mandeville

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
4250 Hwy 22, Suite F
Mandeville, LA 70471

MARYLAND, Baltimore

U.S. Coast Guard (REC)
U.S. Customs House

40 South Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-4022

MASSACHUSETTS, Boston

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

MISSOURI, St. Louis

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

NEW YORK, New York

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

OHIO, Toledo

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
420 Madison Ave., Suite 700
Toledo, OH 43604

OREGON, Portland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
911 NE 11th Avenue, RM 637
Portland, OR 97232-4169

SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
196 Tradd Street
Charleston, SC29401-1899

TENNESSEE, Memphis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
200 Jefferson Ave., Suite 1302
Memphis, TN 38103

TEXAS, Houston

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

WASHINGTON, Seattle

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

This list is also available at: www.uscg.mil/nmc

MARTIME EMPLOYMENT

Deep Seas

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:

Maritime Labor Unions

Seafarers International Union

PO Box 75
Piney Point, MD 20674
Phone: (877) 235-3275
www.seafarers.org

Sailors Union of the Pacific

450 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 777-3400
www.sailors.org

Marine Firemen's Union

240 Second St
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 362-4592
www.mfoww.org

American Maritime Officers

490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW, Suite 7204
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 479-1166
www.amo-union.org

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Association, District No. 1-MEBA
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 638-5355
www.d1meba.org

International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots

700 Maritime Blvd
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
Phone: (410) 850-8700
www.bridgedeck.com

Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide

The Maritime Administration publishes the Maritime Labor-Management Affiliations Guide which 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 on line (www.marad.dot.gov) or by contacting:

Office of Sealift support (MAR-740)
Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590.
Phone: (202) 493-0029

The Military Sealift Command (MSC),

Department of the Navy, operates numerous merchant-type ships manned by civilian crews employed as civil service mariners (CIVMARS). The fleet is made up of a variety of classes of ships giving MSC CIVMARs a chance to gain experience that allows them to advance their credentials. MSC is actively recruiting mariners to join their team. Information is available at www.sealiftcommand.com or by contacting:

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

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Office of Marine and Aviation Opportunities, operates high seas oceanographic research ships and hydrographic and fisheries survey vessels. Many afloat personnel are civil servants. Detailed employment information is available on the internet at www.moc.gov.

GREAT LAKES, TOWING AND BARGE, AND COASTAL AND INLAND WATERS

The American Waterways Operators

(AWO) 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, Phone 703-841-9300 is the national trade association for the U.S. tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO has over 400 member companies which operate throughout the United States on rivers, canals, ports and harbors, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts. You can find information on the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry and a list of AWO's member companies at:
www.americanwaterways.com

The Lake Carriers Association, 20325 Center Ridge Road, Suite 720, Rocky River, OH 44116 represents 18 U.S. flag companies operating 62 vessels on the Great Lakes and can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for mariners. Telephone: (440) 333-4444, or email: info@lcaships.com. LCA's website is: www.lcaships.com.

The 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: 103 Oronoco Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: (800) 807-8360 (toll-free) or (703) 518-5005. PVA's website is: www.passengervessel.com/.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates floating equipment which maintains and improves the nation's waterways. This floating equipment is also manned by civil servants. Employment opportunities are very limited, and may be found at www.usace.army.mil/.

OFFSHORE OIL AND MINERAL

Offshore Marine Services Association, Inc. (OMSA) 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2040, New Orleans, LA 70112-1657, Phone: 504-528-9411 is an association of companies which operate oil and mineral vessels such as crew and supply boats that support offshore oil and mineral rigs and platforms. OMSA's website contains listings of companies and employment contacts on the internet at: www.offshoremarine.org.

The following websites also provide information on available job opportunities in the maritime industry:

www.goships.com

www.shiptalkjobs.com

www.findmaritimejobs.com

This list is not all-inclusive and doesn't represent an endorsement by any part of the U. S. Government.

MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Maritime Theme 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 with 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 theme schools. A list of high schools or associations with maritime-oriented programs can also be found at: marad.dot.gov. Click on "Education"

Maritime Academies

There are seven maritime academies in the U.S. that educate and train individuals to become officers in the merchant marine. Graduates receive college degrees and U.S. Coast Guard licenses as STCW qualified deck or engineering officers.

US Merchant Marine Academy

300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
Phone: (866) 546- 4778
www.usmma.edu

California Maritime Academy

200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590
Phone: (707) 654-1000
www.csum.edu/

Great Lakes Maritime Academy

Northwestern Michigan College
715 East Front Street
Traverse City, Michigan 49686
Phone: (800) 748-0566 ext. 1200
www.nmc.edu/maritime/

Maine Maritime Academy

Castine, ME 04420-5000
Phone: (800) 464-6565 (In state)
(800) 227-8465 (Out of State)
www.mainemaritime.edu/

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
Phone: (508)830-5000
www.maritime.edu

State University of New York Maritime College

6 Pennyfield Avenue
Throggs Neck, New York 10465
Phone: (718) 409-7200
www.sunymaritime.edu/

Texas Maritime Academy

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Box 1675
Galveston, Texas 77553 -1675
Phone: (877) 322-4443
www.tamug.edu/corps/

Maritime Labor 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 their qualifications.

Calhoon MEBA Engineering School

27050 Saint Michaels Road

Easton, MD 21601

Phone: (410) 822-9600

www.mebaschool.org/

Andrew Furuseth School of Seamanship

450 Harrison Street

San Francisco, CA 94405

Phone: (415) 777-3400

www.sailors.org

Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS)

692 Maritime Boulevard

Linthicum, Maryland 21090

Phone: (866) 656-5568

www.mitags.org

Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)

1729 Alaskan Way South

Seattle, WA 98134

Phone: (888) 893-7829

www.mates.org

Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education

Box 75

Piney Point, MD 20674-0075

Phone: (301) 994-0010/ (877) 235-3275 (toll-free)

www.seafarers.org

RTM STAR Center

2 West Dixie Highway

Dania Beach, FL 33004

Phone: (800) 445-4522/ (toll-free); 954-921-7254

www.star-center.com

Maritime Administration Marine Fire Fighting

The Maritime Administration operates the Great Lakes Fire Training Center. The Center trains mariners to extinguish live fires in a realistic ship-like structure. The training meets U.S. Coast Guard requirement for training and certification of seaman.

Maritime Administration Fire Training Center

2600 S. Eber Road

Swanton, Ohio 43558

Phone: (419) 574-1965

Email: GLFireschool@dot.gov

Other Schools

Numerous schools exist around the country that provide maritime training for new and experienced mariners. In January 2009 there were over 1,750 Coast Guard approved courses offered by over 245 training providers. A current listing of these courses and training providers can be found on the USCG NMC website at: www.uscg.mil/nmc/

Additional schools are listed on the Careers Afloat website at: marad.dot.gov/. Click on "Education"

This booklet is for informational purposes only.

References to any companies or organizations herein not be construed as an endorsement of any product, service, or position by the United States Government, the Maritime Administration, or employees thereof. MarAd's role in Promoting a robust United States merchant marine does not imply that the Government approves of the work product of any organization or considers any organization's work product to be superior to the other products or services.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Maritime
Administration**

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

-or-

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