

# Marine Technology Vessel Operations FAQs

## What is a US Coast Guard License?

The Merchant Marine is not an Armed Service, nor is it related to the US Marine Corps; rather, it is a name for the commercial shipping industry. It is similar in organization to the commercial airline industry. Just as commercial pilots have licenses issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, merchant mariners (usually just called "mariners") have licenses issued by the US Coast Guard.

Graduates of the **Deck** program are eligible to sit for Mate Oceans or Near Coastal Steam and Motor Vessels of 500 or 1,600 Gross Tons and with additional post program sea-days may progress to Master. Deck licenses are also qualified by the size of vessel that a mate can serve aboard, and the waters over which the mate may navigate.

Graduates of the **Engine** Program are eligible to sit for Assistant Engineer – Limited (Oceans) Steam or Motor Vessels of Any Horsepower on Inland Waters and of 1,600 Gross Tons in Oceans, Near Coastal and Great Lakes Service and with additional post program sea-days progress from Assistant Engineer to Chief Engineer. Their licenses are also qualified by the type(s) of main propulsion engine, which they may operate, and the maximum horsepower they may operate.

To receive a license in conjunction with your studies at the Maritime College, you must (1) be a member of the regiment of cadets, (2) take specialized courses on ship operations, (3) complete requisite sea-days on MUG Cruise (freshman cruise) and multiple cadet shipping, (4) demonstrate specific competencies, good character, and sound judgment, and (5) pass the US Coast Guard license examination. For more information on US Coast Guard Licenses visit the [Coast Guard licensing web site](#). Licenses are granted in accordance with the [\*International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping\*](#), as amended in 1995.

## Why are the MTSVO students in the Regiment of Cadets?

Leadership and accountability is a core function of deck and engine officers and therefore all limited license students at Maritime College are members of the regiment of cadets.

## How many sea-days are required for Engine or Deck?

Both Deck and Engine Cadets enrolled in the program are required to earn 360 sea-days (non-cadets also known as hawsepipers must earn 1080 sea-days).

<p><b>Limited Deck (SUNYCU 303(NC)/304(OC))</b></p> <p><b>Training Ship @1.5:1 / Commercial Vessels @ 1:1 [at least 300 days] – incl. PS-410/PS-411/MTDO 524/MTDO 525</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mate 1600 = Oceans or Near Coastal (at least 100 GRT)</b></li> <li>• <b>Mate 500 = Oceans or Near Coastal (at least 50 GRT)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In-Port Watchkeeping and Maintenance [up to 30 days]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintenance = NMT 16 days (2 Maintenance Modules = 15 days)</b></li> <li>• <b>Watchkeeping = NMT 14 days (Pre/Post Cruise = NMT 7 days; In-Port Watchkeeping = 4 days)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Simulator Training [NMT 30 days]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PS 414 = 30 days</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Total - At least 360 days</b></p>	<p><b>Limited Engine (SUNYCU-598)</b></p> <p><b>Training Ship @1.5:1 / Commercial Vessels @1:1 [at least 360 days]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ENGR 510 = NMT 54 Days (81 days)</b></li> <li>• <b>MTEO 521 = at least 93 days</b></li> <li>• <b>MTEO 522 = at least 93 days</b></li> <li>• <b>MTEO 523 = at least 93 days</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Commercial vessels must be at least 200 GRT and 1,000 HP</b></p> <p><b>Total - At least 360 days</b></p>
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## What Credentials do I need to cadet ship?

**Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)** – Is a tamper-resistant biometric credential to maritime workers requiring unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities, outer continental shelf facilities, and vessels regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, or MTSA, and all U.S. Coast Guard credentialed merchant mariners. Cadets must garner a [TWIC](#) to be eligible to apply for a Merchant Mariner Credential.

**Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)** – Upon garnering a TWIC, MTSVO Cadets are required to immediately apply for their MMC. MMC applications are done through the Director of Licensing and Cadet Shipping, Taleen Stroud. Contact Ms. Stroud at 718-409-7212 or [tstroud@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:tstroud@sunymaritime.edu)

## How do I apply for a USCG License?

Upon successful completion of all academic and sea-day requirements a course completion letter will be forwarded to the Director of Licensing and Cadet Shipping, Taleen Stroud. Contact Ms. Stroud at 718-409-7212 or [tstroud@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:tstroud@sunymaritime.edu) for a license application process.

Appointment. Once you are Approved To Test (ATT) you must contact Ms. Stroud and can either go online and schedule your own appointment at the NMC website, or Ms. Stroud can facilitate.

## What Subjects are on the USCG Exam?

In addition to required sea service, training, and practical demonstration of skill, mariners are also required to successfully pass written examinations in order to earn credential endorsements. This applies to original endorsements, as well as raises of grade, increases of scope, and renewal, both for officer and rating endorsements.

Mate Oceans or Near Coastal of Less than 500-1600 Gross Registered Tons Exam Code: ONC04

Module Name	Number of Questions	Passing Score
Q100- Rules of the Road: Inland and International	50	90
Q136- Deck General	70	70
Q137- Deck Safety	70	70
Q138- Navigation General: Near Coastal	70	70
Q139- Navigation General: Oceans	70	70
Q140- Navigation Problems: Chart Plot	15	87
Q141- Navigation Problems: Near Coastal	10	90
Q142- Navigation Problems: Oceans	15	80

Assistant Engineer – Limited – 1600 Gross Tonnage Exam Code 61CR

Module Name	Number of Questions	Passing Score
611 – General Subjects	70	70
612- Motor Plants	70	70
613 – Engineering Safety & Environmental Protection	70	70
614 – Electricity	70	70
615 – Steam Plants (for steam endorsement)	70	70

## How do I study for a USCG License?

Cadets in the MTVSO program [study](#) independently and choose a variety of study tools including books, reference material, on-line training tools, and tutors.

## **How can I apply to the Program?**

External freshman students can apply at the Admission Department.

Internal students wishing to change majors must complete first the MTSVO program application form and upon acceptance the Maritime College Change of Curriculum form.

## **What are my employment opportunities?**

Maritime College graduates have had an enviable placement record over many decades and the MTSVO program has enjoyed great employment success. The United States has over 6600 tugs, 3000 Offshore Supply Vessels, and thousands more ferries to obtain employment Nationwide. MTSVO graduates wishing to go shore side are employed in a variety of positions including: Oil Brokering, Terminal Operations, Risk Management, Port Captains, Port Engineers, and more.

We strongly suggest that you should choose a program based on the kind of work that you would like to do. Solid academic and practical foundations in the MTSVO program allow a graduate to do many different things in his or her career.