

START HERE

High School Diploma or GED

You'll need to complete your secondary education in order to be successful in a maritime career.

Courses to Take

You'll want to enroll in courses that prepare you with the knowledge and skills for the next step in your career journey.

- Applied math
- Technical writing
- Hands-on mechanical or technical (shop, automotive, welding, etc.)
- Electronics, robotics, physical sciences

Interests and Aptitudes

If you enjoy any of these interests or like to work in a certain way, a maritime career may be right for you:

- Machines, building, tinkering
- Working with your hands and tools
- Dynamic work that changes
- Seeing physical results of hard work

Pre-Apprenticeship

A pre-apprenticeship program during high school helps you learn the skills and work habits you'll need to enter a registered apprenticeship program.

It is an excellent way to discover whether your future occupation is something you enjoy. A pre-apprenticeship can also help you be hired as an apprentice and start earning right after high school.

No diploma/GED?

Many education programs don't require a diploma, and some will even help you get your GED!

Choose Where to Work

In maritime, you can work in many different environments, which are divided into two areas: shoreside and underway.

Shoreside Careers

The majority of the work you'll perform in shoreside careers is on or near land.

Underway Careers

These careers will take you away from land and out on vessels on a body of water.

Career Essentials

Drug screening (including for marijuana) may be required for your career.

Underway Careers

Underway careers also require a driver's license, U.S. Passport, Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), and Merchant Mariner's Credential. You'll complete time at sea during your education program.

Community or Technical College

Washington's colleges are an excellent and affordable way to start a career in maritime. With a certificate or degree from a community or technical college, you can have a fulfilling, family-wage career in maritime without a lot of student debt. Includes time at sea for underway careers.

4-year University

Some jobs do require a degree from a 4-year university. To make these careers more affordable, consider completing the first two years of your bachelor's degree at a community or technical college then transferring. Includes time at sea for underway careers.

Other Education Providers

As an alternative to state-funded education institutions, you may choose to enroll at nonprofit or private education provider. Many exist in Washington and other states. Includes time at sea for underway careers.

Direct to Workforce

If you want to enter the workforce with or without a high school diploma or GED, there are jobs waiting for you!

Registered Apprenticeship

As an apprentice, you'll be hired by an employer and paid 65% of the prevailing wage for the occupation you choose. Your employer and apprenticeship program will teach you the skills you need to do the job. Includes time at sea for underway careers. As you become more skilled and work more hours, your pay increases until you complete your apprenticeship and receive your journeyworker card. At that point you'll be paid 100% of the prevailing wage for your job.

Start your career in maritime

Start your career in maritime

Start your career in maritime

Start entry-level job in maritime

Continue your career as journey-level worker



Community or Technical College

With a degree or certificate from one of Washington's community and technical colleges, you can access these in-demand maritime careers and many more!

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER AT THESE COLLEGES



Marine Technology

Training in the construction and repair of watercraft and their onboard systems.

Seattle Maritime Academy

Classroom instruction and hands-on training on working vessels to prepare for a career in the maritime industry.



Skagit Valley College

Learn in a purpose-built professional facility, preparing you to work as a technician in the recreational boat, ship repair, and maintenance industries.



Welding Fabrication

Industry professionals teach the skills to become a shipyard welder with employable skills.

Maritime Manufacturing Academy

A short term program to develop skills in the world of diversified and advanced manufacturing.

Shoreside Careers

The majority of the work you'll perform in shoreside careers is on or near land.



Welder

Build and repair ships and parts.



Electrician

Plan and connect the electrical systems that power boats.



Propulsion Technician

Design and implement steering and propulsion systems.

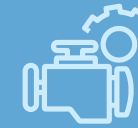
Underway Careers

These careers will take you away from land and out on vessels on a body of water.



Captain/Mate/Pilot

Operate and navigate a water vessel and its crew.



Ship's Engineer

Manage and maintain a ship's engine and propulsion systems.



Sailor/Oiler/Fisherman

Work and assist as part of the crew aboard a ship.



Apprenticeship

Shoreside

Plumber & Pipefitter
HVAC Technician
Boilermaker
Painter
Carpenter

Underway

Washington State Ferry Worker
Commercial Fishing
Entry-level Mariner
Engine Corps

Shoreside or Underway

Electrician
Crane Operator
Marine Service Technician

Explore: washingtonmaritimecareers.org/programs/apprenticeship



4-year University

University programs for maritime tend to focus more on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and technical knowledge.

Shoreside or Underway

Marine Engineer: chemical, electrical, and/or mechanical engineering
Naval Architect
Metallurgy
Surveying

Explore: washingtonmaritimecareers.org/programs/university



Other Education Providers

A wide range of nonprofit and private organizations provide training and education for these careers and more:

Shoreside

Welder
Culinary Steward
Diesel Technician
HVAC Technician
Electrician
Painter

Explore: washingtonmaritimecareers.org/programs/nonprofit-private



High School Diploma or GED

While you can be hired in any of the occupations below directly out of high school, a 1-2 year technical certificate from a community or technical college will help you access higher wages and more career opportunities.

Shoreside

Laborer
Assembler
Yard Worker

Underway

Commercial Fishing

Explore: washingtonmaritimecareers.org/programs/diploma