

Marine Service Technician Apprenticeship Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the format of the apprenticeship program?

Apprenticeship programs are approved and controlled by the New York State Department of Labor. The program seeks to train individuals as Marine Service Technicians by a combination of “on-the-job” and formal classroom technical training. Once approved, the apprentice will begin work at an employer participating in the apprenticeship program as a full time employee while attending college level technical courses one day per week during the normal semesters offered by the college. Approximately 144 hours of training is expected per year. The on-the-job training lasts for approximately four years. (8,000 hours)

Where are the college classes held?

The downstate training provider is Kingsborough Community College located in Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn NY. The Apprentice must be matriculated in the AAS degree in Marine Technology. It is estimated it will take four years of part time college attendance to complete the degree requirements. Some classes will require the apprentice to be physically present on campus. General education core classes may be taken on-line through Kingsborough or at BOCES facilities in Suffolk County downstate or at other training providers in the upstate area.

Suppose I already have college credits. Are credits transferable to Kingsborough?

College general education courses may be transferable at the discretion of the admissions officer. Additional credits may be earned based on previous work experience on a case by case basis.

Are Military Veterans eligible?

Yes. Veterans can use their education and housing benefits. Military experience may also count toward advanced standing in technical subjects.

What are the requirements to becoming an Apprentice?

High School diploma or equivalent, clean drivers' license and provide their own transportation, 18 years of age, legally able work in the United States, physically able to do the job. Drug testing may be required and is tested randomly. Students in the Eastern and Western Suffolk BOCES high school program must maintain a 90% attendance rate and a minimum grade point average of 80% and obtain a certificate from the marine tech program. Students in the Eastern or Western Suffolk Pre-apprentice program must also meet the above requirement. Students graduating from the Eastern or Western Suffolk BOCES programs may earn 8 college credits toward the Kingsborough Community College AAS Marine Technology degree. Apprentices must have their own tools or be working toward building their own set of tools.

Are there jobs available?

Employers are eager to hire Apprentice candidates. Employment locations throughout NYS are available close to your home. Employers use an unbiased selection process that is reviewed and approved by the Department of Labor. Openings are filled without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, veteran status, arrest record or marital status.

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I am new to the field of Marine service mechanics. Who will help me with the on-the-job training?

Each employer has signed a pledge to provide an experienced mentor to guide your daily training. He/she will oversee your job performance, quality and timely completion of assigned work tasks. As your skills improve, additional responsibilities will be added to your job description.

What is the starting salary?

Each apprentice in the downstate area will receive \$16.00 per hour for the first year. Additional salary increases for each year in the program shall be earned until you become a journey worker at which time you will be earning the journey worker salary at your place of employment. Hourly rates are different the upstate areas. Other employee benefits such as paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance and/or retirement plans may be available depending upon individual employer benefits.

How much does tuition cost?

Each course at Kingsborough Community College is \$235 per credit plus laboratory and student fees. You will be expected to take a minimum of two courses per training day. Books are additional. Some employers have indicated they would contribute to the cost of tuition for the right apprentice. In some cases federal or state loans may be available depending upon individual circumstances.

What are the main subject areas in the apprenticeship program?

The 8,000 hour training consists of 110 “skill” subjects within the following major topics:

- **Safety and Workplace Orientation**150 hours
- **Vessel Technology and Operations**1,000 hours
- **Marine Operations**1,000 hours
- **Coastal Piloting and Seamanship**1,000 hours
- **Vessel Propulsion Systems**1,000 hours
- **Marine Electrical Systems**1,000 hours
- **Marine Electronics**1,000 hours
- **Other Vessel repairs**1,000 hours
- **Welding**1,000 hours

During the course of the apprenticeship you will be required to achieve the minimum following industry recognized certifications:

- **American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC)**
 Marine Electrical, Gas engine, Diesel engine
- **National Marine Electronics Association**
 Basic Marine Electronics Installer (BMEI), Basic NMEA 2000 Installer

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- **Department of Environmental Conservation**

Bottom Paint Apprentice

- **OHSA**

Fork Truck Operator, Mobile Boat Hoist Operator

- **NC3**

Torque, Precision Measurement, Snap-on Meter Certification, Battery Charging and Maintenance, Starting and Charging

- **US Coast Guard**

Up to 225 sea days towards a US Coast Guard Captains License

- **Employer Specific Certifications**

Based upon franchised boat and engine lines

I heard the marine industry is seasonal. Will I be laid off in the winter months?

A few smaller businesses may close during the winter. You can stay in the apprenticeship program as long as you work 8 months or more per year. You may be able to work for a different employer during the off time and not lose your spot in the apprenticeship program. At most businesses this is not an issue as most employers have more than enough work to carry through the winter months.

Are there minimum academic standards that must be met?

To remain in good standing you must maintain a minimum grade point average of “B” and you must be in school when required. Lateness and absences will not be tolerated.

Once I have been placed with an employer, may I leave for a different employer?

Apprentices are required to maintain steady employment with the original employer for the duration of the apprenticeship program. Program sponsors will allow changing of employers only under certain extreme circumstances.

Can more than one apprentice be working at the same employer?

There is no limit to the number of apprentices who can work at the same employer. Each apprentice will have his/her own mentor throughout the training period.

As an employer, what is my incentive in hiring an apprentice technician?

There are many. By becoming a Signatory to the Empire State Marine Trades Association Marine Service Technician Apprenticeship Program you: assure a steady supply of workers, trained without losing valuable production time, and coveted career opportunities for participants; get reduced costs for you and the apprentice, increased efficiency and productivity and reduced turnover; Structured and consistent training program leads to a highly skilled workforce; increased retention and attendance, workers with no student loans who immediately get a good paying job and earn while they learn; and you earn a reputation of being an industry leader in providing high-quality employment and training opportunities. In addition you also receive an Empire State Apprenticeship Tax Credit of up to \$7,000 per year per apprentice and \$500 credit for each mentor.

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How is progress of the on-the-job training monitored?

As specific tasks are assigned to the apprentice by the mentor the completed task is reviewed and a daily log is kept by the apprentice with the mentors' approval. The daily log can be on paper or a computer generated excel file. As the apprentice gains experience in performing the assigned tasks, the mentor uses his/her judgment, industry standards and/or experience to sign-off on final approval as to the apprentice's competency in performing the task. Each task can be a "one-time" process or the task may be repeated multiple time before proficiency is achieved. There is no rule on how many times a task is repeated before competency is attained.

What happens if I leave the apprentice program before finishing the training period?

If the apprentice leaves the program before finishing the training period voluntarily he/she may not come back into the program. The apprentice must also maintain good academic standing at the technical training provider.

Is there a probationary period?

Yes. During the first year you are considered a probationary apprentice.

How come the Marine Service Technician Apprenticeship program is 4 years and 8,000 hours when other apprenticeship programs in New York State are much shorter?

The Marine Technician Program is lengthy due to the highly complex nature of the products and systems found in boats. The technology found in boats today takes time to understand and cannot be rushed.

Can I speed up the schooling to finish the degree in less time?

Yes, of course. You can always take general education courses either on-line or through another community college if you desire. Technical training courses must be taken at Kingsborough Community College or other affiliated community colleges throughout the state.

How do I know what tools are required to perform the job?

Once accepted into the apprenticeship program, a full list of hand and special tools will be provided.

**For more information please contact:
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