

Breakdown of licenses and exams

Each level has associated privileges allowing you access to parts of the spectrum, power levels, and so on. Every third year, the exam pool for each level and the exam sets will be updated or changed. About 10% of the question pool changes. This means that published materials will expire..

Technician & General

The exam pool consists of 400 questions and answers for both levels, which are published. You will receive a set of 35 questions and a passing score is 26.

As a Technician you will have access to approximately 75% of the frequency spectrum, covering a few slices of HF, but mostly 50MHz and higher.

As a General, you will have access to a majority of the spectrum at about 93%. You will also have the privilege of being allowed to be a volunteer examiner for anyone taking the Technician exams. At this level, the world is your oyster.

Amateur Extra

The exam pool consists of 600 questions and answers, also published. You will receive a set of 50 questions and a passing score is 35.

As an Amateur Extra, you will have full access to the entire spectrum assigned to Amateur Radio Operators. Another privilege is that you are authorized to be a volunteer examiner for ALL amateur license levels.

On or before the day and time of the exam

You MUST go to the FCC Universal Licensing System website and sign up for your FCC Registration Number (FRN). This is **REQUIRED** on the paperwork you will fill out before being given a test.

The URL is:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>



Record your assigned FRN here:

BRING THIS WITH YOU TO THE TESTING SESSION

MARA grants use of this document to other amateur radio clubs in part or in whole, with the provision that acknowledgement for the original work is given to and a copy of derivative work forwarded to:

*Matanuska Amateur Radio Association and
Chris Hamman / KL5BF & Michelle Hamman / KL5GK*

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Amateur Radio Licensing

Questions & Answers

So you want to get your Amateur Radio License, do you have what it takes? **YES!**

Do I have to go to the FCC office to take a test?

No, as an amateur radio association, we are authorized by the FCC under agreement with the LAUREL VEC to administer all of the amateur radio examinations. We have a pool of General and Amateur Extra volunteer examiners that are more than happy to show up to be there to administer exams. Please do us the honor of allowing us to serve you in this capacity.

What are the costs to get a license?

MARA does not charge to administer exams.

After you pass the Technician exam, as of April 2022, the FCC charges a \$35 fee for your first 10 years and subsequent 10 year intervals. They will email you at the address you provided in the FCC ULS with the details on how to make payment. Once you pay the fee, you will receive your license with a link to download a PDF copy that you can then print out.

Subsequent upgrades to General or Amateur Extra do not incur any fees at this time.

Who is in charge of testing?

The MARA Testing Coordinator is:

Ken Hudson
radiohamming@gmail.com
(907) 354-0206

Please contact the Testing Coordinator by the middle of the month to inform them of your intention to be at the exam session at the end of the month. This will provide time for scheduling of the required number of volunteer examiners for the session.

Does MARA offer classes for the exams?

We would be remiss as amateur radio enthusiasts if we didn't. Absolutely YES! MARA Licensing Instructor is:

John Mears
johnrmears@gmail.com
(907) 745-6835

Please contact our Licensing Instructor to see if there is a class scheduled or to arrange for a class. If not enough people are signed up to schedule a class, you may have to self study or gather a bunch of your friends & relatives and convince them to join you in becoming an amateur radio operator as well. If you cannot get a group of people to join you, then try self-study. Our Licensing Instructor may have Gordon West study guides that you may purchase that are used in the course of the classes that we offer

When do we offer testing?

MARA offers testing on the last Saturday of the month, unless cancelled or rescheduled. We offer testing during our annual picnic, so come meet us, enjoy the food, fun, and take a test or three!

Location of testing site

WASI Senior Center has graciously donated the use of their facility for our testing needs. If there are any changes, the testing coordinator will inform everyone involved. WASI's address is:

1301 S Century Cir
Wasilla, AK 99654

Unable to attend a class or no classes scheduled that meet your needs?

Try self-study. A lot of operators have used self study to achieve their licensing goals. The person authoring this brochure self-studied for all three exams.

What self-study materials should I use?

Search online for study sites or study guides. Talk with the Licensing Instructor to see if they have a guide you can purchase for the exams level that you are looking to test for.

We are not endorsing any specific sites, but many have had success using the following exam testing sites and materials: ARRL has guides, MARA uses the Gordon West guides that are considered by most to be the gold standard for instruction.

ICOM sponsors the very user friendly site:

<http://www.hamstudy.org>

No Nonsense Study guides are found at the authors website. The author offers the Technician guide as a free PDF download, so look for it on that page!

<https://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>

Can you test without studying?

PLEASE DO! Nothing is stopping you but yourself. If you have a basic understanding of government rules & regulations, electricity, and electronics, there is a good chance you will do just fine. It doesn't hurt, and you will have exposure to the exam format and types of questions, so why not!