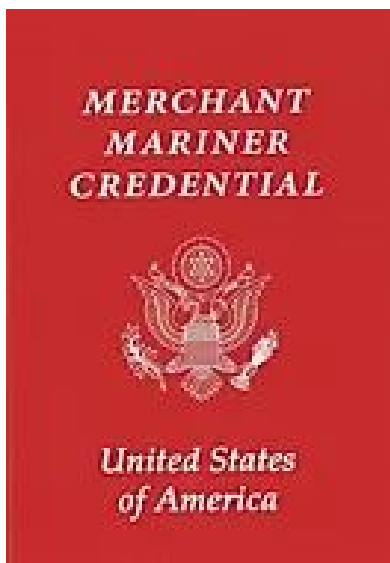


# HOW TO STUDY AND PREPARE FOR THE USCG CAPTAINS LICENSE



Produced by:



# Core Concept

USCG Captain's License courses abound in the marketplace. They range from the classroom, online, or Distancing Learning format. The next few pages of this document give insight into how to prepare to tackle this objective of getting a USCG License. The content is not a fancy, hard-to-learn, long worded pamphlet. It is an example of tried and true methods that deliver results. The final objective is to ***Pass the Exam !!!*** and is the foundation of our mission statement. The controlling authority for the license is the USCG National Maritime Center [www.uscg.mil/NMC](http://www.uscg.mil/NMC).

The learning and exam prep system is based on three primary elements that exist as an intrinsic fabric of the successful completion of the requirements.

- Use Education Time to your Advantage (Study Methods)
- Understand how to utilize Blank Paper for Testing
- Application of Memory Graphics and Other Techniques

# Study Methods

The USCG Captain's License course and examinations are divided into different modules; Chart Plotting, Rules of the Road, Navigation General, Deck General/Safety. Each section consists of a mixture of old and newer elements. The secret to success in this realm is the organization system you use to learn the material, process, evaluate, and then successfully take the exam. In reality, the real test comes to the actual time you use the new skill-set to avoid danger and diminish risk while boating.

Some examples of Study Methods that can be employed when learning this maritime subject matter and preparing for testing;

- Set an Exam Countdown Clock to help avoid Procrastination - *Your biggest deterrence in this type of training.*
- Use 2-Page Memory Graphics for Rules of the Road - *You can invoke a previous memory by visual means almost immediately, but can you describe what you were reading last week?*
- Use Blank Paper on every exam - *You can literally download all the hard things to remember before you begin the exam process. It serves to focus on memory and increase recall of the information.*
- Study Prep using the **S3** system of Time Management - **S**tudy Often, **S**hort Intervals, **S**ilence (without distractions)
- Never Take a Practice Exam unless you have the Correct Answer **highlighted** or in **BOLD** font - *Based on the premise "You only test once, anything before is prep; after is retake"*
- Review material when you awake or soon thereafter and before you go to sleep - *It makes a profound positive difference in memory and recall.*

# All About Blank Paper

Probably the biggest weapon in your arsenal for testing for the USCG Captains License. Learn how to reconstruct the Rules of the Road 2-Page Memory Graphics and you can reap the benefits of total understanding of this required proficiency. It doesn't stop there when it comes to advantages for mastering examinations...

Here are some other uses for Blank Paper;

- If you do not understand a question then write it down on the blank paper. Try to answer the question without reference and by intuitive sense. It will help you conclude the correct answer or draw closer to the right choice.
- Before taking the examination, write down all formulas, memory aids, pictures, or reference guides. It has a huge impact on directing your attention to the task at hand and recall of the information
- Fold or cut into smaller pieces to encapsulate a paragraph or problem. There is sometimes the negative aspect of combining information from different questions causing failure to correctly answer.
- Take testing notes if that will help you in review before completion of the examination. There is however a very important aspect of doing this properly. DO NOT change an answer unless you are 100% absolutely, totally positive you are making the right decision of changing the answer. It is vitally important to understand this probability. The odds are in favor of you changing the right answer to a wrong answer or even a wrong answer to another wrong answer.

# Nautical Language

There are numerous words used in USCG License training and examinations that are different than your usual vernacular. This is a major cause of confusion and resistance to understanding a certain subject. Before you begin this type of study regiment, recommend you become familiar with your new Nautical Language. You can find some of these words on this link; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_nautical\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_nautical_terms) It is not a requirement to memorize the entire list and would suggest you glance through the pages as some of the terms will be utilized in this form of education. This seemingly minor task will deliver wonders in your understanding of the subject material and enable a better learning experience.

# Memory Graphics

The ability to recall information and give the correct answers pertaining to **38 International** and **11 Inland Differences** in the navigation Rules of the Road is considered daunting by most mariners that take the examination. Regardless of the complexity of the test, its sole purpose is to prepare you for the reality when it comes to collision avoidance and risk management. This form of memorization using graphics has application in other types of subject matter as well. This example is direct to understanding, passing the written test, and even more importantly be skilled in the application of the Rules of the Road and assessment of Risk of Collision which ultimately increases safety.

# Credential Application

It is absolutely true...*The application can sometimes be more difficult to complete than the course of study and the examinations that follow.* Take a look at the National Maritime Center website; [www.uscg.mil/NMC](http://www.uscg.mil/NMC) and witness for yourself. It is extremely well designed with many resources of information, forms, checklists, and directives. It is also confusing, even to experienced mariners that have used it before.

If you need guidance in preparing for the examinations, extra tutorial on subjects that you find difficult to master, or need a professional service to help you complete the application and even submit for you to the US Coast Guard as a 3rd Party representative we can help at [www.NavTeach.com](http://www.NavTeach.com)

Look forward to your success and achieving the goal of getting your USCG License.

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