



## MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALING PROCESS

The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) National Maritime Center (NMC) has a great website to guide you through the Credentialing process:

<http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/National-Maritime-Center/>

1. The first thing you will need to do is apply for a TWIC card:  
<https://universalenroll.dhs.gov/workflows?servicecode=111111&service=pre-enroll>
2. You will also need to have a current US passport. To apply for a passport go to the following website:  
<https://pptform.state.gov/PassportWizardMain.aspx>
3. You will also need to get a Physical Exam and have the Medical Practitioner complete the USCG form CG-719K:  
For entry level:  
[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG\\_719KE.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG_719KE.pdf)  
For officers & ratings:  
[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG\\_719K.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG_719K.pdf)  
Your primary care physician may complete this form for you, if not, there are clinics that will complete the form:  
Norfolk / Hampton Roads area: <http://www.iandomedical.com/contact>
4. A negative drug test result is also required:  
[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG\\_719P.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/forms/CG_719P.pdf)
5. You will also need to complete the minimum training requirements for the Merchant Mariner's Credential. Training is required as follows:  
Basic Safety Training (BT) – 5 days, includes Basic Firefighting, First Aid & CPR, Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities, Personal Survival Techniques  
Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties (VPDSD) – one day, includes Maritime Security Awareness  
There are also local maritime training facilities that can provide this training, <https://marinershq.com/directory/>.

6. You will then need to apply for a Merchant Mariner's Credential (MMC) as an Ordinary Seaman, Wiper, Steward Department (FH), FH is "Food Handler". You will also need to apply for a STCW endorsement to be included in your MMC.

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/merchant\\_mariner\\_credential/](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/merchant_mariner_credential/)

Application:

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/merchant\\_mariner\\_credential/](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/merchant_mariner_credential/)

7. For US military veterans, USCG-National Maritime Center may give you credit for your Military Sea Service for higher level ratings or officer endorsements. You must provide a Transcript of Sea Service, History of Assignments or acceptable military tracking software printout to the USCG for evaluation. The Sea Service must contain vessel information such as the name of each vessel or its official number, the period of time the you were assigned to each vessel, horsepower, tonnage, area of operation, rating for enlisted or rank for officers, and position held while assigned to a vessel.

For a detailed guide for US Navy personnel please see Blueprint to Mariner: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/usn/pubs/blueprint2mariner.pdf>

8. The Seafarers International Union (SIU) represents all the unlicensed mariners aboard US Marine Management ships. Once you receive your MMC, the SIU will be able to assist you in joining the Union.

There is an SIU Hiring Hall in Norfolk, 115 Third Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-1002 – telephone: 757-622-1892. Other SIU Hiring Halls can be found at: <https://www.seafarers.org/about/members/hiring-halls/>

For more information about joining the SIU, you may call and ask to speak to one of the Union officials. The SIU also offers assistance to new mariners, <https://mymaritimecareer.org/>

The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, part of the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, is a vocational school dedicated to preparing students for successful careers as U.S. Merchant Mariners. The school's apprentice program is registered with U.S. Department of Labor. There is no cost for tuition or room and board, though there are other costs associated with the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OBTAINING A MERCHANT MARINER'S CREDENTIAL, PLEASE CONTACT: [maritimejobs@usmmi.com](mailto:maritimejobs@usmmi.com)

