



THE YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE TRAINING PROGRAM

M.C.A. RECOGNIZED

Overview

When it comes to facing the elements at sea, textbook knowledge is no substitute for practical experience. There is no doubt that aspiring Yachtmasters and captains must prepare themselves as much as possible before being able to truly take full responsibility for themselves, their vessels and their crews. Yachtmaster Certification is of vital importance because it is an established and recognized measure of competency for the commanding of power and sail vessels. This certification not only makes yachting a pleasure, as it should be, but also a safer pursuit for all those who wish to participate now and in the future.

What is the Yachtmaster's Certificate?

Our Yachtmaster Offshore Certification Program is an extensive course designed to provide the highest standards of maritime education for both the professional and recreational yachtsman and woman. It is an intensive course designed for experienced crew with sufficient on the water experience. This program is not for beginners, proof of the required seetime showing the necessary command endorsed time will be required upon booking.

What are the advantages of holding a Yachtmaster's Certificate?

- Our International Yachtmaster Offshore and Yachtmaster Ocean Certificates are recognized by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (M.C.A.) for entry to their Deck Officer Class 4 with command endorsement limited to yachts.
- Our Yachtmaster qualifications are recognized by insurance corporations worldwide.
- Yacht owners are always looking for competent crew to command their vessels. Holders of our Yachtmaster qualifications are extremely marketable due to their recognized knowledge of nautical studies and proven practical competence.

What do the courses consist of?

The program consists of seven separate modules as outlined below. Each module stands alone and can be taken individually or together. A number of practical courses are run after each theory module, *course preference is given to students in the order deposits are received.*

- (A) **A six day comprehensive high level shore based module** with assessment papers and written examinations incorporating subjects including navigation, tidal calculations, international collision regulations, pilotage, meteorology, anchoring and berthing, buoyage, safety, first aid, passage planning and seamanship. Candidates are advised that a considerable amount of private study and varied cruising experience is required in addition to the formal instruction provided. This module takes six days to complete and requires a number of written examinations.
- (B) **A four day Yachtmaster offshore practical course module** is conducted onboard a yacht. This part of the instruction covers seamanship skills such as nautical terms, tides, ropework, anchor work, boat handling, docking, yacht presentation, general yachting skills, weather, navigation and passage

planning. This course will be a preparation course for your final Yachtmaster Offshore Examination. This module takes 5 days to finish and can be completed for either a power or sail endorsement.

- (C) **Half day Radio Communications module.** This module deals with international radio communications and requires one day of instruction and a final written examination.
- (D) **One and a half day Personal Survival course module** which is instructed in compliance to STCW '95 Code A - VI/1-2 and consists of a half day in a classroom covering subjects such as emergency situations, evacuation, survival craft and rescue boats, personal lifesaving appliances, survival at sea, emergency radio equipment and helicopter assistance. The remainder of the course is spent in a swimming pool performing an actual life raft inflation and inversion and the simulation of other abandon ship procedures. The theory and practical are both followed by an exam.
- (E) **A two day Fire Prevention module** which is instructed in compliance to STCW '95 Code A - VI/1-2 including shipboard fire fighting organization, the elements of fire and explosion, types of ignition, fire and smoke detection, breathing apparatus use and automatic alarm system familiarization. Yachtmaster certificate trainees will fight and extinguish actual fires using personal equipment, appliances methods and various agents. The module includes seminar and practical instruction taught by licensed and certified fire fighting professionals. It takes two days to complete and is followed by a written exam.
- (F) **A one day First Aid and CPR** which is instructed in compliance to STCW '95 Code A - VI/1-2 and consists of approximately seven hours of theory and practical covering basic First Aid and CPR in marine situations. The course is followed by a written exam.
- (G) **A half day Personal Safety and Social Responsibility** which is instructed to STCW '95 Code A – VI/1 – 2 The course is followed by a written exam.

What is required for my final Yachtmaster's examination?

All of the courses and criteria must be fulfilled before a candidate may apply to take the final certification examination.

What does the final exam consist of?

The final exam will be conducted by a Yachtmaster examiner and takes the form of an extensive oral and practical test on a yacht. Candidates should expect to be examined on any subject covered by the syllabus of the shore based or practical courses and to be questioned on any aspect of their yachting experience to date.

In the event that the examiner considers an examinee not to have achieved the required standards and/or the candidates' ability as Captain does not reach the required standard, and/or the prerequisites have not been met for the Yachtmaster Offshore, a Yachtmaster Coastal Certificate will be issued in the interim. In this case, and if requested a personal report will be sent to the candidate outlining the reason or reasons for failure and suggesting remedial action prior to re sitting the exam.

Completion of the Yachtmaster Certification course is not a guarantee of passing the examination and receiving your certificate. For those candidates who have completed the Yachtmaster Practical Course, the Examination will take place immediately following course completion.

What are the minimum entry requirements to complete the Yachtmaster Offshore Course?

1. **Yachtmaster Candidates must have logged 50 days on board a yacht at sea** as an active member of the crew to be able to participate in the course. For the purpose of this requirement, a day is defined as a period of 24 consecutive hours. Parts of a day *may not* be included in this total, but a day is not

invalidated by a candidate leaving the yacht for a few hours during a cruise. The term “at sea” is defined as being on a vessel outside of any harbor - natural or artificial - in which a cruising yacht could secure or anchor for a prolonged period of time.

2. **Candidates must also have logged 3,000 miles in a yacht** while cruising at sea. This mileage must be logged on genuine cruises or passages but not short day trips. At least 2000 miles must have been completed on coastal voyages and not Ocean crossings.
3. **Candidates must have five varied passages with rhumb lines of over 60 miles**, two of which the candidate must have been undertaking the duties of captain or watchkeeper during the passage.
4. **30 hours on watch at night** underway as an active member of a yacht’s crew. For at least six hours of this night time experience, the candidate must have been acting as the vessel’s captain/watchleader. “Night,” in this context, is defined as the time between sunset and sunrise.
5. **A Current Medical Exam and Eyesight Test** which allows the participant to perform safely the relevant duties on a yacht, including being able to see and distinguish lights and signals of other vessels and navigational marks in typical weather conditions without risk to him/herself, other crewmembers or the safe operation of the vessel.

** Candidates may sit the shore-based course prior to having all the above requirements.*

** Verification of the above yachting experience **must be original and signed** by the Captain of the yacht in which the candidate was sailing. Candidates claiming sea time during times when they were acting as Captain may sign their own entries but owner’s verification will be required.*

How do I apply for enrollment?

In order to apply for selection in the Yachtmaster’s Certification courses, a detailed yachting resume must be sent to our Fort Lauderdale office for evaluation. Class starting dates are available by contacting this office.

Candidates are selected based on their yachting experience and nautical knowledge. Selection is at the discretion of the evaluation committee. Classes require detailed schedule coordination and planning, so it is recommended that application materials are submitted in a timely manner. *(Acceptance onto the course does not automatically guarantee obtaining a Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate. All the prerequisites must be fulfilled and satisfactory standards achieved in all the modules).*

What do I receive at the end of the entire course?

Those completing the Yachtmaster program will receive the following:

- (1) The Yachtmaster Offshore - Shore Based Certificate
- (2) Radio Communications Certificate
- (3) Basic Sea Survival Certificate (S.T.C.W. 95)
- (4) Fire Fighting Certificate (S.T.C.W. 95)
- (5) First Aid Certificate (S.T.C.W. 95)
- (6) Personal Safety and Social Responsibility (S.T.C.W. 95)
- (7) M.C.A. Recognized Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competency.

NB: Each Yachtmaster course is limited in size, so early application is advised. Candidates are required to submit a 50% deposit with their application. Your place in the class and the choice of practical module will be reserved upon receipt of funds on a first-come, first-serve basis.

You may request us to mail your course notes to you upon receipt of funds.