Multicultural Services

The Department of Multicultural Services works with other programs on campus to support the cultural, educational, social and personal development of all students attending TAMUG. Departmental services include personal advising; a resource library including multicultural books, articles and video/audio tapes; and tutoring and mentoring services. Computers and skill enhancement software are also provided for incoming students wanting to review basic chemistry and calculus. Multicultural Services is also responsible for the Culture Club which is open to all persons seeking to gain valuable experience in promoting diversity through multicultural programming. For more information, call the Office of Student Life at 409-740-4582.

Hazing

Anyone who participates in hazing is in violation of University rules as well as state law. Violators may be subject to University disciplinary action in addition to state criminal penalties. Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus by one person, alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are (or include) students at the University. A complete definition of hazing is available in the Office of Student Life.

University Police

The University Police are responsible for the protection of persons and property of Texas A&M University, and for the enforcement of the laws of the State of Texas and the rules and regulations of Texas A&M University as promulgated by the Texas Education Code. University police are commissioned peace officers involved in regular foot and vehicle patrol of campus, late-night security escorts, crime prevention programs for the campus community, and criminal investigations for the recovery of property and apprehension of criminals. Officers also provide regular security checks of buildings and property on campus. All University personnel are requested to cooperate with University police officers.

Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act

In compliance with the Federal Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, a brochure is available which includes information on campus security and safety resources, policies and procedures for safety (reporting crimes and emergencies, crime awareness and prevention, security of campus facilities and residence halls), alcohol, drugs and weapons, and crime information and statistics. This information is available from the University Police Office, Building 3025, and can be reached at 409-740-4545.

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TEXAS MARITIME ACADEMY

Mission and Purpose

The Texas Maritime Academy (TMA) is a prestigious, highly specialized, maritime training program that is embedded within Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG), which is a branch of Texas A&M University (TAMU) at College Station. The mission of TMA is to provide the maritime industries of the State of Texas and the United States with highly trained and professional licensed Merchant Marine Officers (deck/engine) to serve on ocean-going and inland waterway vessels. The Academy includes:

- Cadets who are in the U. S. Coast Guard licensing program (called License Option) leading to a Merchant Marine Officer’s unlimited license as a deck or engineering officer.
- The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) leading to an officer’s commissioning in the U.S. Navy.
- The Drill and Ceremony Cadets who desire the leadership training in the Corps of Cadets, but choose to not participate in either of the above programs.

Additionally, License Option Cadets who volunteer and meet the qualifications, may join the Strategic Sealift Officers (SSO) Program administered through the Naval Science Department/NROTC program, which provides the opportunity for License Option Cadets to receive a commission as an Ensign and serve in the Naval Reserve. These Cadets are also eligible to receive funding ($8,000 per year) through the Student Incentive Program sponsored by the U. S. Navy and administered by the Maritime Administration. Cadets in this program also have the option to request active duty in the U.S. Navy or a direct commission in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Application

Admittance to the Texas Maritime Academy is granted by special application which can be obtained at the Texas Maritime Academy website. You must also gain admittance to Texas A&M University at Galveston as outlined in the Admission section of this catalog. License Option Cadets may only major in Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering Technology, Marine Biology
License Option, or Marine Sciences License Option. On-campus housing is required for all cadets, except those in Victor Company.

**Background**

The Texas Maritime Academy (TMA) is over 50-years-old and has a rich tradition of providing outstanding Merchant Marine Officers and active duty Naval/Coast Guard officers who have proudly served in the Merchant Marine and on active duty in the military during the Viet Nam War, Desert Storm, Somalia, and Bosnia, and now serve in the Iraqi/Afghanistan Wars and the war on terror. Our graduates have gone in harm’s way and served honorably and with great distinction. Undoubtedly, future graduates will also go in harm’s way and face many of the same challenges. Our graduates have distinguished themselves as outstanding ship handlers, engineers, and ashore corporate officers throughout the United States and the world. TMA provides the tools to deal with those professional challenges at sea and ashore. The Texas Maritime Academy enables our graduates to have the ability to face any adversity and overcome any challenge. This is accomplished through an extremely demanding academic degree program coupled with a rigorous practical mariner training program taught by handpicked, highly experienced Master Mariners and Engineers. This enables our Cadets to meet the demanding licensing standards and requirements of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG). This is the reason our graduates are sought nationwide.

To meet the high academic and practical deck and engineering seamanship training standards required to receive a degree, a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) license, and a Commission, an individual must be highly motivated, honorable, extremely dedicated, of high moral character, and willing to sacrifice to meet the necessary regimentation found in the Corps of Cadets.

**Training/Commercial Cruise Requirements**

License Option Cadets, regardless of age or status, are required by federal law to be in the Cadet Corps for a minimum of 3 years as a full-time student, and participate in three summer Cruises. A minimum of two cruises will be aboard the training ship (first and third cruises).

The second cruise between the sophomore/junior years may be on a commercial vessel, depending on the Cadet’s grades (requiring an overall GPR of 2.5 or higher to go commercial) and the availability of commercial vessels. If a Cadet is unable to qualify for a commercial cruise or if none are available, they will take their second cruise on a training vessel. The commercial cruise is competitive, not a requirement, and not all Cadets will be able to sail commercial. In those cases, a Cadet may:

- Sail his/her second cruise on a training ship;
- They may sail on a commercial vessel during the next Fall or Spring semester (subject to availability and competitively based).

It should be emphasized that a “C” average is required by Cadets in all USCG Standards of Training, Certification and Watch standing (STCW) courses that are a cruise prerequisite (as noted in this catalog) to participate on a summer cruise. Cadets must also maintain a cumulative GPR of 2.25 or above in their major and a 2.0 GPR overall to attend cruise. Cadets must also complete all practical training and work off all demerits prior to being certified for each summer cruise. These requirements may be appealed to the Superintendent who will make the final determination of eligibility on that cruise. However, a “C” average or better is required in all USCG/STCW courses for a Cadet to be eligible for a USCG license. This requirement is not open to appeal and must be met as noted in the License Option curriculum in this catalog.

Ashore, all Cadets in the Corps are required to live on campus with the exception of those applicants who are married, 25 years of age or older, possess a bachelor’s degree or have prior military service. These individuals are placed in Victor Company which reports directly to the Commandant of Cadets. In the Corps, Cadets learn to develop and hone a myriad of skills but particularly the leadership skills needed upon graduation in the very demanding environment of a professional Merchant Marine Officer or Military Officer. The regimentation found in the Corps instills leadership, honor, self discipline, trust, character and a sense of moral responsibility which enables each Cadet to easily face the challenges of a seafaring life. The Corps of Cadets follows many of the traditions and customs found in the Corps of Cadets at TAMU in College Station. However, after over 50 years as a maritime academy, some seafaring traditions and customs have developed.

Finally, after meeting all the academic and training requirements (which includes passing the USCG administered license exam) and based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Academic Department Head, each Cadet will receive a diploma from Texas A&M University and a U.S. Coast Guard license as a Third Officer (Deck/Engine) in the Merchant Marine. If the Cadet has participated in the Merchant Marine Naval Reserve program they will also receive a Commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Cadets may also apply for active duty in the U.S. Navy and a direct Commission in the U.S. Coast Guard. Cadets who don’t complete both requirements, will not be allowed to receive their diploma in the TMA uniform.

**The Corps of Cadets**

Applicants who desire a degree program leading to a USCG license option (LO) as a Merchant Marine officer (Deck or Engine) are required to be a member of the Corps of Cadets. The Corps provides Cadets a regimented environment that is designed to develop leadership skills required to be a Merchant Marine or military officer. Leadership development is the ultimate goal of the
Corps. One of the principal components of leadership development is uniformity and cohesion. Therefore, all Cadets are required to wear uniforms and meet established standards of dress, grooming and discipline. These standards prepare the Cadets to “dress for success” when they enter the maritime industry, the military or, for the Drill and Ceremony Cadets, the corporate environment. The uniform requirement list and cost/payment procedure will be provided to each Cadet when accepted into the Corps. The cost of uniforms will vary but generally ranges from $1,500 to $2,000 for all four years. This includes $200-300 for replacement items. Uniforms should be ordered upon acceptance to the Texas Maritime Academy and will be issued during Orientation Week which takes place prior to Fall semester.

All Cadets will be required to stand watches on the training ship. Additionally, Cadets are required to perform practical training on the ship as required by the U.S. Coast Guard Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW). Cadets are also required to attend formations, drill (including “march ins” at Kyle Field in College Station), stand announced and unannounced personnel and room inspections, participate in physical fitness activities and perform other duties as required by the Corps Rules. Cadets are encouraged to participate in the numerous on campus sports, clubs and educational activities. Finally, Cadets can also compete to be members of the Hearn Honor Guard, the Drill Team, the Sea Aggie Band and the Flag Color Guard, who perform at events throughout Texas and other bordering states.

**Six Categories of Cadets**

1. U.S. Merchant Marine Licensing Program: The first category is the Merchant Marine License Cadets. This category includes those individuals who desire a Merchant Marine Engineering or Deck Officer License (issued by the U.S. Coast Guard).

2. U.S. Merchant Marine Licensing Program with Navy Reserve (SSO): The second category is the Merchant Marine License Cadets who choose to join the Strategic Sealift Officer’s (SSO) program which is similar to NROTC, except summer cruises are accomplished on the training ship or a commercial ship instead of with the U.S. Navy. Cadets participating in the SSO program receive a Commission as an Ensign, USNR upon completion of their degree, and successfully passing the USCG license exam. For SSO Cadets who meet the academic requirements, there is an opportunity to compete for the Student Incentive Program (SIP) which provides $8,000 per SSO Cadet per year. After commissioning as an Ensign, USNR, SSO (SIP) Cadets must agree to remain in the Reserves for 8 years. All SSO Cadets may choose to apply for Active Duty.

3. NROTC: The third category is NROTC Cadets. These Cadets are in a non-license option program but desire to be an active duty Naval Officer (Navy/Marine). NROTC candidates may also compete for NROTC National Four Year Scholarships. All NROTC Cadets receive some uniforms provided by the Navy. Greater detail on NROTC will be found below.

4. Drill and Ceremony: The fourth category is the “Drill and Ceremony” (D&C) Cadets. These Cadets are not in a license option (LO) curriculum nor NROTC but desire to be exposed to the leadership training, and the spirit and camaraderie of Corps life. Some of these Cadets are individuals who come to TAMUG/TMA for two semesters pending transfer to the main campus at College Station. These Cadets are also fully integrated in the Corps, must purchase all required uniforms, stand watches, perform drill, stand formation, room inspections, and receive practical training on the ship. They are not required to go on the summer cruise. At graduation, every D&C Cadet will be presented a Certificate indicating that they have voluntarily participated in this rigorous regimentation and leadership training.

5. Victor Company: The fifth category is the “V Company” Cadets. These Cadets are individuals who are married, over the age of 25, have a bachelor’s degree or have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States. These individuals are in a special unit that reports directly to the Commandant of Cadets. However, they too are required to buy all uniforms, participate in formations as determined by the Commandant, stand required watches and perform practical training on the ship. As stated above, they are permitted to live off campus.

6. International: The sixth category is International Cadets who wish to participate in the Merchant Marine License Option training and the degree from Texas A&M University at Galveston. These Cadets are subject to U.S. Immigration laws, must have a student visa and excellent English language skills. It should be understood that by Federal Law, only U.S. citizens may take the USCG license exam. However, certificate of completion of all USCG courses and a degree will be presented upon completion of all required training/education.

**Orientation Week**

Prior to the beginning of the Fall academic semester, 4th Class Cadets (first year) are required to attend O-Week. This program, under the guidance of the Commandant of Cadets and orchestrated by Cadet Officers, introduces each new Cadet to the routine of the Corps of Cadets, exposes new Cadets to the regimented Corps environment, the customs and traditions of TAMU/TAMUG/TMA, and basic seamanship and nautical science skills. During O-Week, Cadets have formations, march to class and to meals, learn teamwork, experience hands on seamanship training and perform other training to enable them to hit the decks running when the entire Corps reassembles following the Summer Cruise.
Admission Requirements for License Option Applicants

Applicants who meet the University admissions standards and pass the U.S. Coast Guard physical requirements are eligible to apply to the Texas Maritime Academy and to be considered for admittance to one of the License Option courses and the Corps of Cadets in September of each year. License-option students must choose to major in either MARB-LO, MARS-LO, MART or MARR curriculum. Admission criteria is governed by 46 U. S. Code 310 and includes a record free of criminal offense (background investigation) and proof of U.S. citizenship. Each application is thoroughly reviewed by TMA staff and a recommendation for admission is made to the Superintendent. The final decision for acceptance into the Texas Maritime Academy rests with the Superintendent. It should be emphasized that acceptance to the University is not approval for acceptance into TMA. The application for admission for the Corps of Cadets is available through the website. Generally, students will not be accepted into the LO curriculum after the 12th class day of the semester.

General Health Standards

Cadets enrolled in the License Option curriculum are held to special academic and physical standards due to the immense responsibility a Merchant Marine Officer has on board a merchant ship. Medical physical requirements for a license are included on the initial Physical Form which must be submitted with the Texas Maritime Academy application. Both the TMA application and the Physical Form are available at the website.

Examples of those requirements for Deck and Engineers license, as found in U.S. Code 46, Part 10, are:
- Minimum 20/800 in each eye correctable to 20/40 in each eye.
- Must pass an approved color blind test.
- Must be psychologically, perceptually and physically sound. Any disability, including some learning disabilities that might prevent an applicant from performing the duties of a Cadet or officer at sea, could preclude acceptance to TMA and licensing programs.
- Applicant must be honest and forthcoming on all questions relating to medical conditions. Any deceptive/false answers will be reason for dismissal from the program.
- Cadets are required to be screened for drugs prior to admission to TMA and will receive random screening while in the license option curriculum. Any Cadet testing positive is subject to removal from the LO curriculum. The cost for screening is the responsibility of the Cadet.

Additional U.S. Coast Guard Requirements

In addition to USCG approved and required Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) courses, Cadets will be required to obtain several additional training endorsements required by the USCG. Some of these include basic safety training, advanced firefighting, Radar/Automated Radar Plotting Aids training, Global Marine Distress System (GMDS) training and Bridge Resource Management training. Additionally, each Cadet will be required to obtain a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) and a Homeland Security “TWIC” card before the first cruise. For these documents, Cadets must have in their possession a valid U. S. Passport, original birth certificate, and a photo ID, preferably a driver’s license. Most of this training and document costs have fees not associated with TAMUG/TMA. However, they are required by federal law and we will assist each Cadet in obtaining the endorsements they need to receive their license. A complete list of these requirements and costs will be made available during O-Week. It is extremely important that each applicant understand that the USCG requires all STCW courses to be passed with a grade of “C” or better or the course must be repeated. Also, class attendance for both academic courses and STCW courses is mandatory. No unexcused absences allowed. Additionally, the law requires each Cadet, regardless of status, to attend TMA no fewer than three fall and spring semesters, as a full-time student, and participate in three summer cruises; two on the training ship and a commercial cruise on merchant vessel between the 2/Class and 3/Class year. There are no waivers or exceptions to this requirement. Additionally, Cadets must have an overall “C” average in all STCW coursework to be eligible for summer cruise. Cadets must also have a 2.25 GPR in their major courses and a 2.0 GPR overall at TAMUG to be eligible for summer cruise. The Lifeboatman Training Certificate is not available until graduation per direction of the U.S. Coast Guard.

When all STCW and academic requirements are met, the Superintendent TMA will recommend and certify that Cadets are eligible to “sit” for their U.S. Coast Guard administered license. The exam takes place over a four day period and covers every aspect of STCW training. It is an intense and grueling four days and requires that each Cadet be fully prepared. It is important to understand that a degree and/or a license can not be conferred until the test is successfully passed. International, non U.S. citizens are exceptions to this policy.

Standards of Conduct

Cadets are held to a very high standard and represent those Cadets who have gone before them. Therefore, TMA Cadets do not lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate anyone who does. TMA Cadets are subject to Corps Rules and Honor Code that characterizes the objectives set forth in the development of their leadership skills. The Academy’s conduct and discipline process is a vehicle for assessing the aptitude and motivation of each Cadet for becoming an Officer in the Merchant Marine or Military. The ultimate goal of the conduct system is to build on the basic foundation of discipline and conduct Cadet possesses when he or she enters the
Academy. Cadets are subject to demerits and those who continually have difficulty conforming to Corps Rules will be subject to varying degrees of discipline as determined by TAMUG/TMA rules. If discipline conditions persist, a Cadet could face dismissal from TMA. Discipline is overseen by the Commandant. Cadets are afforded due process in all discipline cases with appeals decided by the Superintendent. License option Cadets dismissed from the TMA and who are permitted to remain at TAMUG will not be allowed to take LO courses, will be removed from the Corps housing, and if a non-Texas resident, will be subject to out of state tuition costs.

All Cadets are required to wear the specified uniform of the day to class, formation, and meals during the weekdays Monday thru Friday, when standing watch and as deemed appropriate by TMA Staff/Corps Commander. It is permissible to relax the uniform requirement on the weekends, but appropriate attire in the Student Center/Galley is required.

Demerits and practical training hours on the training ship are required to be completed before a Cadet can sit for license examinations or attend a summer cruise.

Navy ROTC/Strategic Sealift Officer’s (SSO) Program

The Department of Naval Science trains Cadets who desire to participate in the Strategic Sealift Officer’s program (SSO), a voluntary joint program established in 1925 between the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Merchant Marine. The mission of the SSO is to assist the U.S. Navy in times of war/mobilization by augmenting the Navy’s sealift capacity. Cadets will be offered the opportunity to join the SSO program during their first year. Cadets who possess the appropriate military aptitude/military bearing, academic standing, and motivation and receive a positive interview and endorsement from the Officer in Charge of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) may apply via the Commandant for the SSO program and, if selected on a competitive basis, may be offered the opportunity to join the SIP program discussed above. Upon graduation and receipt of a license, Cadets will be commissioned as an Ensign USNR. They can also apply for active duty in the Navy or another branch of the Armed Forces.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:
- The Cadet must be under the age of 34.
- The Cadet must pass a Navy physical examination (to enter the program and another prior to Commissioning).
- The Cadet must pass the semi-annual Physical Readiness Test.
- The Cadet must be enrolled in a license option curriculum.
- The Cadet must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 (4.0 system).

The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)

NROTC offers those individuals who desire to become Naval Officers and meet the qualifications to qualify for a commission while attending TAMUG. These Cadets are fully integrated into the Corps of Cadets, and perform all the activities required of the Corps. Most uniforms for NROTC Midshipmen are provided at the expense of the Navy. To be eligible for a Commission, NROTC Midshipmen must complete all requirements for a bachelor’s degree as well as certain courses specified by the Navy. Students may join the NROTC program as National Four Year Scholarship Winners or as non-subsidized college program applicants. Information on the National Four Year Scholarship program can be obtained through a Navy recruiting office. The submission deadline is 15 January in the year application is being made. College program Midshipmen are eligible to compete for three and one year or three year and two year NROTC scholarships. All NROTC scholarships pay full tuition, fees and uniforms. All scholarship and junior/senior level Midshipmen receive an allowance of $250-400 per month depending on class standing. Midshipmen are also paid during the summer training periods.

Additional Costs

The additional costs shown below are primarily associated with the Texas Maritime Academy License Option Cadets, and are over and above the costs of attending TAMUG (see Tuition and Fees):
- Coast Guard Approved Fire Fighting School - $700-$900.
- TWIC - $150.
- O-Week Fee - $38.
- Merchant Mariner Credential - $140.
- Drug testing - approx $35 (each time).
- Uniforms - $1,500-$1,800 (for LO and Drill and Ceremonies Cadets).
- Training cruise - estimated about $6500 depending on fuel costs.

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