

## Voluntary Agreement for 2026 Summer Sea Term Participation

Maine Maritime Academy (hereinafter MMA), acting in cooperation with the United States Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (hereinafter MARAD), will be participating in a sea term with Texas A&M at Galveston the Texas A&M Maritime Academy (hereinafter TAMMA) aboard TS STATE OF MAINE (hereinafter the vessel). Sea term commences, in a Maine port to be determined, on May 3rd, 2026, and ends in Castine, Maine (or alternate port), on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The sea term will provide shipboard training to participants as part of their academic class and chosen discipline, as determined by the sending institution. By voluntarily signing this agreement, the signing participant pledges to comply with the provisions below and the referenced policies.

1. **Vessel:** The Training Ship STATE OF MAINE is the designated vessel for Summer Sea Term 2026 and referred to in this document as “the vessel.” The vessel is owned MARAD and is operated by Maine Maritime Academy.
2. **Purpose of Sea Term:** MMA is operating the summer sea term in cooperation with TAMMA. Sea term is designed to assist cadets in meeting their training and sea-time requirements for certification as an unlimited tonnage/horsepower deck or engineering officer in the United States Merchant Marine. MMA, as operator, is permitting you, as the participant, to train aboard this vessel for your education and professional development.
3. **Authority of Master, Vessel Officers, and Crew:** By signing below, you agree that you will conduct yourself in an orderly, faithful, and honest, manner; furthermore, you will be diligent with respect to your assigned activities aboard the vessel, and be obedient to the lawful commands of the Master, or of any duly appointed officers or crew.
4. **Authority of Faculty and Staff Members:** As designated by the master, faculty and staff members aboard the vessel will have responsibilities relating to your training and your department aboard the vessel (hereinafter “Faculty and Staff Members”). You agree that you will comply with the lawful directives of Faculty and Staff Members of both MMA and TAMMA.
5. **Misconduct:** Violations of any SMS policy or procedure, but specifically sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, Maine Maritime Academy’s Regimental Manual, Maine Maritime Academy’s Sea-Term Manual, or Student Honor Code of Conduct and Responsibilities are considered to be instances of misconduct. By signing this agreement, you are signifying that you have read and understand the documents referenced above before embarking the vessel. For example, you understand that you cannot be dishonest; engage in unacceptable conduct; fight, haze, or harass anyone; or engage in conduct that is hazardous or unsafe to yourself or others. References should be consulted for specific details of prohibited conduct. You furthermore understand that instances of misconduct are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the vessel and withdrawal from or failure of the sea-term.

6. **Fraternization Policy:** As outlined in SMS section 2.4.2, Cadets are prohibited from entering the private staterooms or berthing compartments of any non-cadet (crew members, faculty, staff, contractors, etc.) except for official maintenance, housekeeping, or emergency response. Whenever Cadets must be in such spaces, all doors shall remain open, and a minimum of two cadets shall be present. Additionally, male Cadets are prohibited from entering female Cadets' private staterooms or large shared berthing compartments for any reason other than official maintenance, housekeeping, emergency response\*, or sanitary inspection duties during appropriate working hours and with adequate notice, and Female Cadets are prohibited from entering male Cadets' private staterooms or large shared berthing compartments for any reason other than official maintenance, housekeeping, emergency response\*, or sanitary inspection duties during appropriate working hours and with adequate notice.

\*NOTE: Emergency Response does not require advanced notice, nor do normal working hours apply.

7. **Drugs and Alcohol:** SMS Section 2.2 is the overriding guidance regarding drugs, alcohol and intoxication aboard the vessel. Documents referenced in this SMS policy as well as Maine Maritime Academy's Regimental Manual and Sea-Term Manual contain additional amplifying information. By initialing this section and signing this agreement, you are signifying that you have read and understand the documents referenced above prior to embarking the vessel. Furthermore, you agree to adhere to the provisions of these policies and signify your understanding that violation of these policies may lead to immediate removal from the vessel and disenrollment from sea-term. You cannot possess alcohol onboard the vessel, nor may you consume alcohol aboard the vessel, except under those circumstances outlined in SMS section 2.2. You further agree not to be under the influence of alcohol at any time while aboard or while attempting to gain access to the vessel. Whether you are under the influence of alcohol may be determined by observations of your conduct, use of a breathalyzer machine, or both. Use of illegal drugs, including marijuana, regardless of any medical prescription or state decriminalization, or prescription medication when not possessed or used as prescribed, is strictly prohibited aboard the vessel. Furthermore, possession or use of other substances having psychoactive, depressive, stimulative, or mind-altering effects and used for that effect is also prohibited. You further understand that whether you are under the influence of such drugs or substances may be determined by observations of your conduct, use of a drug test, or both. You recognize that Federal Law of the United States of America regarding illicit and illegal drugs is the only applicable law aboard the vessel. Laws of the state or country in which the Vessel is berthed or operating do not apply. Berthing spaces and personal belongings are subject to search at any time.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Unprofessional Conduct, Harassment, and SASH:** SMS sections 2.4 and 2.4.1 are the policies regarding Unprofessional Conduct, Hazing and Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment (SASH) prevention. By initialing this section and signing this agreement, you are signifying that you have read the referenced policies and understand the implications of non-compliance. Hazing, assault, and/or harassment will **NOT** be tolerated. SOCP SASH training must be completed (with proof by certificate) by all personnel prior to boarding. Instances of SASH violations must be reported to the Master, or, if the Midshipmen/Cadet(s) is/are not comfortable reporting the SASH incident(s) to the Master, incident(s) shall be reported to the MMA EMBARC Designated Person Ashore, Ms. Heidi Pugliese, at [heidi.pugliese@mma.edu](mailto:heidi.pugliese@mma.edu) or by phone at (207) 326-2761.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Shipboard Hygiene and illness prevention:** Due to the nature of ship operations, there is an increased risk of acquiring or spreading communicable diseases such as COVID-19, influenza, conjunctivitis, etc. It is imperative to maintain proper sanitary and hygienic conditions aboard. Furthermore, you will adhere to the orders of crew, faculty, and staff with regard to the implementation of good hygiene practices and assist others with maintaining a high degree of hygiene. By signing this agreement, you accept this risk and understand that you have the right to defer your participation in the training cruise to a future training opportunity. While aboard the vessel, practice good hygiene and avoid contact with persons who have been diagnosed with active illnesses. Illnesses during sea-term diminish your experience, pose a risk of infection to others, and may require you to remain aboard during port calls. Severe illnesses may require you to leave the vessel prior to the end of the sea term for treatment. **“Persons testing positive for communicable illnesses must follow the rules of our host country or local jurisdiction and may not be able to depart the ship on liberty. In the event of an outbreak of illness aboard, the host jurisdiction may impose a quarantine on some or all persons aboard the vessel. Quarantine must be obeyed.”**
  
10. **STOP WORK AUTHORITY:** It is the responsibility of everyone onboard to stop and report any behavior or activity that poses an unnecessary risk to Health, Safety, or the Environment. All instances of such behavior, or any unsafe conditions aboard the ship, shall be reported to your professional (non-Midshipman/Cadet) supervisor AND the Master, immediately using the near-miss report form found in the ship’s SMS. If the Midshipman/Cadet is not comfortable reporting the behavior to the Master, the incident shall be reported to the MMA Designated Person Ashore (DPA), Capt. Christopher Monroe, at christopher.monroe@mma.edu or by phone at (207) 326-2715.
  
11. **Permission to be On Board:** You are being allowed to participate in this sea term by MMA because of your voluntary agreement to these terms and enrollment at MMA or TAMMA. This permission can be revoked at any time. You have no legal right to be on board the vessel. By executing this form, you agree that you may be denied access to or be removed from the vessel at the discretion of the Master. By executing this agreement, you agree that you understand that you have no legal right to be aboard training ship STATE OF MAINE.

**Acknowledgment:**

I have read and understand this form. I agree that acting in a professional manner during sea term is required for the welfare of shipmates and me. I understand the personal, financial and academic consequences for not behaving in accordance with this agreement while onboard and while in port. Violation of this agreement poses serious consequences to potentially include removal from the vessel and disenrollment from sea term. I recognize and accept the obligation to reimburse the Academy for all related travel costs should I be dismissed from the vessel and repatriated, including airfare and travel costs for a chaperone, should one be deemed necessary. I voluntarily sign this form as evidence of my understanding of the provisions in the above agreement.

Executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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Print Name:

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Signature: