



UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
300 STEAMBOAT ROAD
KINGS POINT, NY 11024

ACADEMIC MAJOR

Message from the Provost

On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, welcome to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy! We look forward to welcoming you aboard our campus this July and supporting your educational journey for the next four years.

Our academic program provides a strong general education foundation supplemented by a challenging professional program oriented around the maritime environment. Your on-campus education, both in and out of the classroom, will be complemented by our signature Kings Point shipboard training program in which our midshipmen sail on commercial ships to the far corners of the world, accruing at least 300 days at sea prior to graduation.

Preparing for your first sea year experience begins the moment you arrive on campus. To ensure you can complete all preparatory courses prior to your first sailing, we request that you make an initial choice of your major track at this time, selecting from the navigation (deck) or engineering (engine) degree track. A brief description of our programs is enclosed, and more information can be found on our website, including in the online Academy catalog at <https://catalog.usmma.edu>.

To make your initial selection of major, **please fill out the online form available at the link found in the QR code to the right of this paragraph no later than June 8, 2026** (you may also go directly to the form at <https://forms.office.com/r/fJqp6YJj4u>). While this initial information will permit us to plan your schedule for the upcoming year, you will be able to change your major choice prior to the end of your first term on campus. After your arrival, we will hold information sessions on the various academic majors. During your first trimester, you will also take both Introduction to Nautical Science (NAUT101) and Introduction to Marine Engineering (ECME101), which will provide you with the opportunity to refine your academic goals and interests.



If you have any questions about major selection, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 516-726-5799 or registrar@usmma.edu. Once again, congratulations on your acceptance to join us here at the United States Merchant Marine Academy! My team and I are excited to have you join us here in Kings Point this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathan Gajdos".

Johnathan Gajdos, Ph.D.
Provost



DEPARTMENT OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION (DECK TRACK)

The Department of Marine Transportation offers two majors that share a common nautical science and business core. In addition to traditional accreditation requirements in higher education, these programs must also comply with both federal guidelines and international standards related to maritime education.

Nautical science courses prepare midshipmen specifically for their shipboard responsibilities and the USCG third mate's license examination. The Nautical Science core also provides broad marine-oriented education to produce a well-trained and informed ship's officer. This program of study includes general as well as specific maritime subjects which familiarize midshipmen with a ship as a system, its equipment and its operation. Specifically, midshipmen will study terrestrial and celestial navigation; the rules for collision avoidance; vessel stability and trim; marine materials handling aboard ship and in port; safety of life at sea; pollution control and prevention; marlinspike seamanship; meteorology; maritime communications; integrated electronic navigation systems; bridge resource management; and the various domestic and international rules and regulations that govern these activities.

Maritime business courses give midshipmen a broad understanding of management issues and specific skills required for critical thinking and decision making in business. These skills complement the professional education of midshipmen and strengthen their performance as shipboard officers. Midshipmen also gain a foundation in business administration allowing them to pursue shore-side opportunities in the maritime field. The curriculum recognizes that marine transportation is part of the total transportation system, is crucial to both domestic and international commerce as well as national security.

Both Marine Transportation majors have been designed to give the students a greater understanding of the business aspects of the maritime industry; but the courses offered are not general business courses such as might be offered in a typical business school. Kings Point is in a unique position to offer a program that teaches business skills as they relate to and within the context of the maritime industry. Graduates of the Marine Transportation degree program, with their broad educational background complemented by specific professional management skills, have a wide variety of career opportunities.

THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION MAJOR

The principal objective of the core Marine Transportation Major is to provide midshipmen with the knowledge and skills required to prepare students to serve on a merchant ship as an officer. In general, this major has also been designed to give the students a thorough understanding of the business aspects of the maritime industry and marine transportation systems. Courses are given in the core curriculum to provide midshipmen with nautical science and management skills, as well as knowledge of the transportation processes necessary for successful careers in the maritime industry. The core includes courses in navigation, seamanship, marine safety, dry and liquid cargo operations, integrated navigation systems, meteorology, management, law, economics, transportation, logistics, and intermodal and port operations. Career opportunities following fulfillment of the seagoing obligation are diverse and rewarding. Graduates of the Marine Transportation program, with their broad educational background, complemented by specific management and business skills, have a wide variety of career opportunities. Job opportunities include serving on merchant ship as a deck officer; in terminal operations management; ship operations, ship and cargo surveying; port administration; stevedoring; and logistics.

In addition, the Marine Transportation department offers advanced elective courses in other relevant areas. These courses can be grouped to give midshipmen a more in-depth exposure to a particular subject area. Students interested in concentrating their electives are advised to contact faculty advisors for specific information and advice.

THE MARITIME LOGISTICS AND SECURITY MAJOR

The principal objective of the Maritime Logistics and Security Program is to provide midshipmen with the knowledge and skills required to manage complex maritime and intermodal supply chains and to assist in addressing the security challenges facing the marine transportation system. This goal is achieved through an integrated program of study and experiential learning, the cornerstone of which is an academic major that builds on the Academy's traditional maritime core competencies. Key themes of the major are: the role of ports and marine transportation in logistics and transportation systems, the development of a systematic view of vessel and facility security, inculcation of a risk-based decision-making perspective, and the effective application of information technology.

Midshipmen who elect this major take the same core courses in Nautical Science, Maritime Business, and general education (math, science, and humanities) as do midshipmen in the Marine Transportation major. They must also fulfill the requirements for a U.S. Coast Guard license as Third Mate. Required courses specific to the Maritime Logistics and Security major include: Integrated Logistics Management, Port and Terminal Operations, Vessel Security Officer/Company Security Officer (VSO/CSO), Maritime Security Research Seminar, Chartering and Brokerage, and the Capstone Project Seminar.

The major emphasizes the development of oral and written communications capabilities through written reports and formal presentations. Problem-solving and teamwork skills are enhanced through case studies and applied research projects for outside organizations that focus on real-world tasks identified through the program's extensive industry outreach efforts. Independent certification of professional competency through the American Society of Transportation and Logistics is an attractive optional component of the program. A guest lecture series brings prominent industry figures to the Academy to discuss current issues and challenges in the maritime logistics and security fields.

Career opportunities for graduates of the Maritime Logistics and Security Program following fulfillment of the seagoing obligation are diverse and rewarding. Service is possible in a wide variety of logistics and security-related occupations in commercial, government, and military domains. Examples of entry-level positions include logistics system coordinator, transportation analyst, Facility Security Officer, terminal supervisor, Special Agent, logistics/transportation consultant, and intelligence analyst.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ENGINEERING (ENGINE TRACK)

The United States Merchant Marine Academy's (USMMA) engineering programs are structured with the goal of meeting the needs of the modern-day marine industry and the marine industry of the future. The Academy's engineering curricula are balanced, synergistic programs combining traditional engineering education, operational marine engineering education and training, and strong character and leadership development through the regimental structure of the Academy. The Academy's four calendar year engineering programs are highly integrated programs combining nine in-residence academic trimesters with three trimesters at sea. The sea terms are accomplished aboard active commercial merchant vessels or naval vessels. All the engineering programs are built on a 143-credit core that includes the essential general education courses (mathematics, science and humanities) and engineering-topic courses, as well as non-engineering professional courses such as naval science and physical education.

Marine engineering is a broad-based engineering discipline that essentially combines power-focused mechanical studies with electrical engineering and the study of ship structures and hydrodynamics. The USMMA marine engineering programs combine the study of marine engineering with the training necessary for engineering midshipmen to become sea-going marine engineers licensed to operate vessels of any size and power propelled by diesel engines, gas turbines or steam turbines.

At present the Academy offers three engineering programs: Marine Engineering, Marine Engineering Systems and Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management. In general, the three engineering programs are common through the Plebe (freshman) year. Midshipmen selecting the Marine Engineering Systems program or the Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management program must choose those majors at the end of the Plebe (freshman) year. All of these programs lead to a B.S. degree, a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner's Credential as a Third Assistant Engineer of steam, motor, or gas turbine vessels of any horsepower, and a commission in one of the U.S. Armed Forces. Midshipmen may participate in undergraduate research projects by selecting to become a Kings Point Scholar by enrolling in a "directed research" or project focus elective.

THE MARINE ENGINEERING MAJOR

This major prepares midshipmen to serve as licensed officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine and provides an engineering education that qualifies them for a wide variety of professional positions including the career field of ship operations, marketing, maintenance, repair and survey. It focuses on the operational and applied aspects of the marine engineering profession. The Marine Engineering program is the Academy's core engineering program and includes three electives. Based on available resources and student interest, typical electives may include a 3-course concentration in areas such as marine vessel management or standalone electives in areas such as diesel maintenance or tanker operations.

THE MARINE ENGINEERING SYSTEMS MAJOR

The goals of the Marine Engineering System program are to prepare midshipmen to serve as licensed officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine; to provide an engineering education that prepares them for a wide variety of professional positions in such career fields as ship systems and marine equipment design, research, construction, operations, marketing, maintenance, repair and survey; and to impart to them an engineering education that permits them to pursue graduate study and/or to become licensed as a Professional engineer, should they so choose. This program focuses on the design of marine power plants and their associated systems.

The Marine Engineering Systems major builds upon the solid marine engineering core by adding courses in mathematics. In addition, an important element in the Marine Engineering Systems program is the major capstone design project in senior year. The student participates as part of a team tasked with the design of a ship power plant. The project is spread over three terms and concludes with the presentation of the final design to a panel of faculty and invited industry professionals. The Marine Engineering Systems program includes one directed elective. However, students may request to take additional electives as overloads if they decide to complete a three-course concentration in areas of specialization, such as electrical engineering, nuclear engineering, offshore engineering, and alternative energy. The actual concentrations offered in any given year will be based on available resources and student interest.

The Marine Engineering System program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org>. To enroll in this program, a midshipman must have a CQPA of at least 2.67 at the end of the Plebe (freshman) year.

THE MARINE ENGINEERING AND SHIPYARD MANAGEMENT MAJOR

The goals of the Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management program are to prepare midshipmen to serve as licensed officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine; to provide an engineering education that prepares them for a wide variety of professional positions in ship construction and repair, operations, marketing, maintenance and survey; and to impart to them a solid engineering education that permits them to pursue graduate study and/or become licensed as a Professional Engineer, should they so choose. This curriculum puts particular focus on the management of ship construction and repair.

The Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management major builds upon the solid marine engineering core by adding courses typically found in industrial engineering and engineering management programs. An important element in the Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management program is the capstone design project in senior year. The student participates as part of a team tasked with the development of a ship construction or ship repair project. The project is spread over two terms and finishes with a presentation of the final design to a panel of faculty and invited industry professionals.

The Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org>. To enroll in this program, a midshipman must have a CQPA of at least 2.67 at the end of the Plebe (freshman) year.