

Get Your Amateur Radio Technician License

Hamfesters Radio Club recommends prospective hams consider studying and learning the material themselves. Most technician hams get their license by studying on their own. There is a lot of material designed for self study as well as online practice exams.

This most likely will hasten the time to obtain your ham license. There are several reasons: first, you can start now by getting your materials and then take the VE test when you are ready. Second, you can study at your own pace with no need to wait for a formal training class. Lastly, there is a lot of online training programs. Then attend a Volunteer Examination (VE) session to obtain your license. There are 35 questions taken from a pool of questions (which are published and we study from!) You must get 26 (approximately 75%) of the questions correct. There is no penalty for guessing at an answer; do not leave an answer blank!



The question pool is changed every 4 years. So make sure your study materials consist of the current pool questions.
<http://www.arrl.org/tech-question-pool>

Detailed steps you might follow for self study:

1 - Order your study materials. There are two sources for this material: The "**American Radio Relay League (ARRL) License Manual (Revised 4th Edition)**" which provides tutorial and background information for the exam. (See Resources below) It contains the entire publicly published question pool. The License Manual can be ordered directly from the ARRL (info at end of page) or via Amazon. Another source is Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), in Milwaukee. They provide one day service to the Chicago area via UPS.

Another study guide is the "**Technician Class**" by Gordon West. This also is available at Amazon. Of course, you may elect to not use paper hardcopy to study, but simply use online materials and practice exams.

2 - Study your material using a method best for you. After finishing a chapter, go to the back of the manual and review each question in the Question Pool. Cover the answers or fold the edge of the page containing the answers down so as not be tempted to peek at an answer. If you miss a question or have concerns about that question use the page reference associated with that question to quickly return to the area that discusses that point. There are about 400 questions in the Tech question pool, so memorizing the answers might be difficult. It is best to understand the material; the correct answer will follow. Once you feel comfortable with the study material and the question pool it is time to take a practice exam.

3 - Take a practice exam. Try one of several online web based practice exam sites. Try the one that works best for you. Some sites tell you right away if your answer is wrong, others make you finish the test and then evaluate you like a real exam. A list of web sites is at the end of this article. Once you feel comfortable with the material and are getting good scores say, about 85% or more correct each time you take the test, it is time to take the VE test.

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4 - **Take the VE test.** There are several locations in the south side of Chicago and just about any weekend you can find a VE session. There is a modest charge for the test, so check with the test site to determine the cost. If you decide to take the test again, you will be charged again.

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Good Luck on the test !

Resources;

Order a License Manual

<http://www.arrl.org> American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 225 Main St.;
Newington, Ct. 06111; Tel: 860/594-0200

<http://www.aesham.com/> 800/558-0411 (next day service to Chicago via UPS)

<http://www.amazon.com/>

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com> (complete study materials and practice exam \$\$\$ fee required)

Practice Exams (make sure they are using the current question pool)

<http://ac6v.com/help.htm#PE>

<http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>

<http://www.n3fjp.com/amateurstudy.html> (download question program to your computer - Windows)

VE test sites

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

<http://www.hamfesters.org/main/ve-testing/>

<http://www.w9az.com/vetests.html> Kankakee Amateur Radio Club

<https://w9src.org/licensing/> STARS Radio club, Worth, IL

Related References

<http://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed>

<http://www.arrl.org/getting-your-technician-license>

Hamfesters Radio Club, meeting in Crestwood, Illinois
www.hamfesters.org

Questions: contact Brian Davis, W9HLQ
w9hlq@arrl.net 708/606-3801