

How to get your FCC Amateur Radio Technician License

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To become an Amateur Radio Operator (Ham) you need to pass the FCC exam and obtain your FCC Technician Radio Operators license. The Technician License allows you to go on the air using the UHF and VHF Amateur Radio bands commonly used for local contacts and regional emergency communication and to experiment with some of the other bands.

Earning your FCC Technician's License is as simple as passing the 35 question FCC Element One multiple-choice written exam and paying a \$35 application fee. No Morse Code is required. All you need to do is learn some of the FCC rules and regulations and learn a little bit about how radios and repeater systems work. With a little preparation, many people find the exam easy to pass.

Exams are given by Volunteer Examiners – local Amateur Radio Operators who administer the test as a public service at many local locations. Exams are scheduled frequently – usually every week. Exam times and places can be found on the American Radio Relay League website <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>. Tests can also be taken online. Check <https://hamstudy.org/sessions> for a list of online sessions. Volunteer Examiners are allowed to charge up to \$15 for administrative costs.

There are a number of ways to study for the Technician Exam – Amateur Radio clubs have free classes, classes are available online, and there are a number of excellent self-study books available. My wife and I passed the Technician exam by studying "**The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual**" on our own a few hours a day for about 10 days and by taking the practice tests we found at <http://www.qrz.com> -- that's all it took. You can take the sample tests online and learn immediately if your answers are correct, and if not, what the correct answers should be. You will eventually learn the correct answers to all the questions in the FCC Exam question pool. Some have passed the exam simply by practicing the sample tests on **QRZ.com**.

Most people do very well on the exam by reading the "**The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual**" published by the Amateur Radio Relay League. It sells for \$30 and is available from amateur radio supply stores and on Amazon.com. It's also available on line from the ARRL at: http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRLHam--License_Manual-end-Edition. This well-written text is easy to read and contains all the questions available for use on the FCC exam. Other books you might consider are the "**ARRL Tech Q & A**" (\$20) and the "**Technician Study Manual**" by Gordon West (\$30). Both are available at most radio supply stores and at Amazon.com.

The <http://www.w5yi.org> , <http://www.qrz.com> web sites all contain a wealth of information to help you obtain your license.

I recommend you try self-study and taking sample tests. It is inexpensive and you can study at home at your own pace. When you start scoring 85 and higher regularly on the tests, you're ready to take the exam. If there is something you don't understand in the book, I may be able to help you with a phone call or two. If not, there are other highly experienced Hams who are excellent teachers and will be pleased to help.

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