

Amateur Radio License Process and Study Information

The Technician class is the entry-level license that requires passing a 35-question examination on radio theory, regulations and operating practices. The current question pool expires June 30, 2026.. The General class exam is 35 questions, and the Extra class exam has 50 questions. The current ARRL exam fee is \$15 for each exam session, so it is possible to pass the Technician, General and Amateur Extra exams during the same sitting. To find the nearest location of an exam session, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

The W5YI - VEC is another source for taking exams, currently charging \$14 and their exam locations can be found at: https://www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php.

Prior to your exam, you MUST obtain a Federal Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC:

You MUST obtain an FRN number from the FCC prior to testing for the amateur radio license. The FRN number will then be used to identify you for future upgrade exam applications and address changes. Your SSAN can no longer be used.

- 1- Go to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>
- 2- Click on NEW USER REGISTRATION
- 3- Select the button REGISTER
- 4- Answer the questions and continue through the registration process.
- 5- You will be required on all correspondence to provide a valid email address.
- 6- You will then be assigned an FRN number to use on the license application (Form 605) and other paperwork

What to bring to an ARRL Exam Session:

1. A legal Photo ID (driver's license or passport). If no photo ID is available, see the instructions on the ARRL website.
2. You must have your FCC FRN number. You can no longer use your social security number.
3. If upgrading to a higher-class license, your FRN will be on your license. Bring a copy of your current amateur radio license, or the license information printed from the FCC, ARRL or QRZ website.
4. A pen and two number 2 pencils. (the pen to fill out the Form 605 and the pencils to mark the test answer sheet)
5. Cash, check or money order to cover the exam session fee is requested. If you bring cash, we will have to convert it to a check or MO.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – (as of April 19, 2022) YOU MUST PAY THE FCC APPLICATION FEE

1. When the application is received from the VEC and the FCC processes it, a ULS file number will be assigned, and an email will be sent directly to the applicant (you). The VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator team) will not collect the \$35 FCC fee.
2. In the email sent to each successful candidate, there will be a link with payment instructions. You will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay the FCC fee.
3. After the fee is paid and the FCC processes your application, the examinees will receive a second email with a link to their official license or an explanation of further action.
4. Any application that is dismissed will not be entitled to a refund, including vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign.
5. Further information about the fee and information on a “ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program” (reduced fees for youth under 18 years of age), are available at www.arrl.org/fee-application-fee

The new study books are available to order from the ARRL or W5YI; be sure they are for the most current question pool.

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Licensing-and-Education/> <https://www.w5yi.org/page.php?id=17>

Technician License Classes on You Tube videos (2023):

ARRL HQ and Dave Casler, KE0OG has a series of YouTube videos that follows the ARRL Technician License study book.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mP-Qe2SYwI&list=PLuaplzKwhZN_30dcgsDbGU3J7C8BAYJcG

Technician License Zoom setting YouTube videos with recorded chapters and some reviews by Gary Wise W4EEY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLXLhC17vPQ&list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpziUWPBT3rOvSV6MCCeCaiK0 2023

Technician, General & Extra Study Guides can also be found at: <https://hamstudy.org/> or <https://hamradioprep.com>

Practice Exams:

A Highly Recommended sources for study and practice exams - <https://hamexam.org/exam/15-Technician>,
<http://aa9pw.com/technician-license/> or <https://hamstudy.org/tech2018> or <https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>

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