

Ham Radio License Courses

Three Amateur Radio license classes are available in the USA:

- Technician Class (intermediate)
- General Class (intermediate)
- Amateur Extra Class (expert)

No true entry-level USA Amateur Radio license exists since the Novice license was discontinued. Both the Technician Class and General Class licenses are accessible to almost any person who has entered middle school or above. Most candidates will do well to pass both Technician and General exams in one session, allowing them access to all Amateur Radio bands. Technician operators have limited CW (Morse code) access to three bands, namely 80 m, 40 m and 15 m, where long-distance skywave communications are routinely possible. The Amateur Extra Class license is much more difficult, but it only confers access to a few more frequency segments beyond those allowed to General Class operators on the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m and 15 m shortwave bands.

The recommended textbook for the Technician exam is **ARRL's Tech Q&A 7th Edition**,¹ which is available directly from the ARRL or from Amazon. The General Class textbook is **ARRL's General Q&A 6th Edition**.² The regular Amateur Extra Class textbook is **ARRL's Extra Q&A 4th Edition**.³ Send an email to n7rr@mail.com requesting study guides for any of these textbooks. You may also telephone Bruce Prior N7RR at (360) 332-6046. The Amateur Extra Class exam is difficult enough that many candidates find it worthwhile to use **The ARRL Extra Class License Manual**, which is more extensive. The spiral-bound edition is especially convenient, since it will lie flat.

It is possible now to avoid any textbooks and to study entirely online. You can also get started immediately without waiting for a book to arrive. Subscribe to any or all programs at **HamTestOnline**.⁴ The programs tailor themselves to your learning style, making your studying efficient. Spend most of your time in Study mode. After each day's study session, click on Study History to gauge your progress. Remember that you only have to score 74 % or higher to pass. You don't get extra credit for turning in a perfect exam! After you have your license you'll have plenty of time to learn more about ham radio. Find a convenient exam location and date⁵ and set a pace to meet that deadline. The exam fee is \$15 cash. Be sure to take photo ID to the session. You don't have to be an US citizen. Just provide a USA mailing address.

Welcome to the exciting world of Amateur Radio!

¹ <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-s-Tech-Q-and-A-7th-Edition/?page=1>

² <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-s-General-Q-and-A-6th-Edition/?page=1>

³ <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-s-Extra-Q-and-A-4th-Edition/?page=1> Since the current exam will be updated on 2020-07-01, a fifth edition will soon be available.

⁴ <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/login.htm>

⁵ <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>