

Ham Radio Technician Class (Level 1) Information Sponsored by West Seattle Amateur Radio Club



Below is information on W7AW's online Technician Class from Oct 17 – Nov 8, 2025. We look forward to helping you achieve your Technician license. You can review lectures at home on a schedule convenient for you. The YouTube videos can be found at <https://w7aw.org/education/fcc-amateur-radio-classes/>. These will be followed every two days or so with question and answer sessions via Zoom. We will administer an in-person test session. The tentative schedule is as follows:

When:	Thursday Oct 16	7:00 pm	Zoom introduction
	Watch chapter 2, Radio and Signal Fundamentals		
	Sunday Oct 19	2:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 2
	Watch chapter 3, Electricity, Components and Circuits		
	Thursday Oct 23	7:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 3
	Watch chapter 4, Propagation, Antennas & Feedlines		
	Sunday Oct 26	2:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 4
	Watch chapter 5, Amateur Radio Equipment		
	Tuesday Oct 28	7:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 5
	Watch chapter 6, Communicating With Other Hams		
	Thursday Oct 30	7:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 6
	Watch chapters 7 & 8, Licensing & Operating Regulations		
	Sunday Nov 2	2:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapters 7 & 8
	Watch chapter 9, Safety		
	Tuesday Nov 4	7:00 pm	Zoom Q & A session, chapter 9
	Thursday Nov 6	7:00 pm	Review session
	Saturday Nov 8	TBD	In-person test session, location TBD

Where: Online class. The exam location TBD (in West Seattle)

Recommended text: ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, level 1

Technician Class, 5th Edition. Be sure to get the 5th edition, with the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 question pool.

This is available from online sellers or directly from the ARRL or it may also be in your library. A Kindle version is available.

Fee: There is no fee for the class. However, there is a \$15 fee to take the license exam (which goes to the ARRL). The FCC charges \$35 for the license (renewable every 10 years). [For information about a \$5 fee for exam and license for children under 18 see note at end of this document.]

Class size: Minimum of 8 and maximum of 25.

Use the following link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/Technician-Class-Fall-2025>

Note that a General level ham radio class (level 2) will be offered from Nov 7 to Dec 14, 2025. Students may elect to take both classes. The General class introduction will begin Friday Nov 7, with the exam session on Sunday, Dec 14. Registration is separate for these two classes. If you want to take both, please register for both classes. **Register for the General Class at:** <https://tinyurl.com/General-Class-Fall-2025>

Age requirement: None. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult in class. Children under 12 will likely need extra help.

This is intended to be a fun, low-key, learning experience. Class participation and asking questions are encouraged during the Q & A sessions. However, we will not call on individual students so that you can feel free to participate at your comfort level.

Students are not required to take the exam at this end of this class. There are many exam sessions offered by our club or elsewhere in the area if you can't make it on the scheduled day, or feel the need for more study. A good source of information for exam sessions can be found at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>.

Explanation of the exam:

The Technician exam consists of 35 written multiple choice questions drawn from a question pool of approximately 425 questions. The question pool, which is updated every 4 years, is publically available and is included, with answers, in your book. Each question on the exam is randomly drawn from each of 35 topic areas. The passing score is 26 (74%). Morse code is not required. If you do not pass, you can, time permitting, take the exam again (with a different set of randomly generated questions) for another \$15 fee. If you pass and would like to try the next higher level exam (General or Amateur Extra), you may do that in the same test session, time permitting. Plan on the exam taking 1 ½ hours (including instructions, taking the exam, grading by the examiners and then getting your result).

Suggestions for study:

A number of good online practice exams and study guides are available to practice at home. We recommend <https://hamstudy.org/>. This site offers online "study flash cards," "read the questions" and "practice tests." Explanations are available by clicking in the upper right corner of the flash card. While practicing flash cards, the site uses progress tracking and will concentrate on review of sections that you are finding difficult. Another site offering practice exams is: <https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>. There are also cellphone apps for ham radio study, including a very good \$4 version.

The online lectures are designed to teach the concepts and paint the bigger picture. You can use the book for review. Most people find it easiest to study one chapter at a time, until the questions become familiar, before moving to the next chapter (rather than going through all the questions in the book at once). The online study guide hamstudy.org, mentioned above, provides an excellent way to study. Then try some practice tests. Once you consistently score at least 26 out of 35 correct, you are ready for the test.

The following will be needed on the exam day:

Exam Fees

The fee of \$15.00 is charged to take the license test and can be paid by cash (preferred, and exact change please) or check (made out to David Hillier). I will submit the exam materials to ARRL and pay with my credit card. If you do not pass the test and wish to retake the test, there is an additional fee of \$15.00 for each retake. Opportunity to retake the test will depend on the time left during the testing session and the availability of the volunteer examiners.

There is a \$35 fee for the FCC, paid online, for the license.

Valid ID is required at the time of the Exam

The following identification will be required at the test session prior to taking the exam. Please bring one of the following:

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)
2. If no photo ID is available, two forms of identification:
 - a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them)
 - b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal)
 - c. social security card *
 - d. library card
 - e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the Person or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.
3. Students/minors may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.

4. FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Your FRN number is required by the FCC to be used on your license application forms. I will submit the test materials and results electronically to the ARRL (which is MUCH faster than using mail). Please note that the ARRL and FCC will not accept an electronic submission of the test materials with social security numbers. So please obtain your FRN prior to the exam. It is very easy to do.

Here is the website: visit [https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Register New FRN.htm](https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Register%20New%20FRN.htm)

Materials needed for the exam

Bring at least two working black ink pens and at least two #2 Pencils (pre-sharpened as a sharpener will most likely not be available). We will supply you with a blank paper that you can use as scratch paper. A calculator is not required; however you may find it useful. A simple calculator without a memory is preferable. If bringing a programmable calculator, memories, formulas and programming must be erased and this will be verified prior to taking the exam. Calculator apps on cell phones, tablets or computers are not allowed during the test session.

During the test session, you will be asked to turn off your electronics, with the exception of a calculator. This helps maintain an environment conducive for testing for everyone.

General or Amateur Extra class exam takers:

If applicable, bring either a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license or a reference copy printed out from the FCC website, the license information printed from ARRL website or QRZ website, or the original(s) or photocopy(s) of any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. If your license has already been issued by FCC, the CSCE showing license credit is not needed. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.

Email questions to the instructor: Dave Hillier at AA7XX@westseattlearc.org

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program Information: Candidates younger than 18-years old will pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC VE team when taking an exam. Proper identification must be presented to and verified by the team. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer.

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