

Amateur Rado Technician Course Outline

October 8, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Radio Amateur Service• Radio Spectrum Privileges and Rules• Fundamentals of Radio Signals
October 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Properties of Electricity (DC and AC)• Electronic Components and Circuits
October 22, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic Components and Circuits (con't)• Simplex and Duplex Operations• Propagation, Antennas, and Feedlines
October 29, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amateur Rado Equipment• RF Emission Types: FM, SSB, Digital, etc.• Base, Mobile, and Portable Operations
November 5, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating Practices – Normal and EmCom• Regulations
November 12, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Catch up• General Review
November 19, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio programming• Simulated Emergency Net• Test Session Rehearsal
Test	Students schedule their own

Note: If there are at least ten students that commit to attending an in-person test session at the American Red Cross in Seattle, we will arrange for one, date to be determined.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I have to attend every session to be able to take the licensing test?** No, attending a class is not a requirement for taking the licensing examination. Many people use the textbook and online materials to prepare for the test on their own, others take a full course or attend a few course sessions where they find a topic a bit more challenging. Attendance is not taking during class.
2. **What if I have a conflict with the date of a class session?** If possible, please email the instructor ahead of time or within a day or so of the session. This helps the instructor follow-up to see if you need any help with catching up.
3. **What do I need to bring with me when I take the licensing exam?** You will need an ID (driver's license, passport, and the like, an FRN number, and \$15 for the examination fee. An FCC Registration Number (FRN) takes the place of using your Social Security Number on licensing forms. You will need to obtain one before taking the test, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration>.
4. **Can a non-US citizen get an Amateur Rado License?** Yes, anyone may hold a license except a representative of a foreign government, they will need to obtain an FRN. Additionally, there are agreements in place with many countries allowing for reciprocal operations, that is, temporary operation outside of the license holder's country of citizenship.
5. **What if I have a question between sessions?** Not a problem, email the instructor your question and phone number and you will get a response by email within 24 hours. There will be a Q&A session 30 minutes before the session's official start time starting with the second class.
6. **Is homework required?** No, but homework, reading the text and answering the questions in the book, will be assigned. This homework is not required, and nothing is sent to the instructor or graded.
7. **Do I have to use the recommended textbook?** No, whatever book or online resource you want to use is up to you. You can even download the entire question pool for free from <https://www.arrl.org/question-pools>.

Resources:

The resources below are not endorsements but just of list that may help you as you go through the class.

Study Aids:

<https://hamstudy.org/> (free)

<https://hamradioprep.com/technician-license-course/> (a complete online course for \$35)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1KAjn5rGhizj2pYcQ-b3Ufcq53nZ7dj>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuVEkuu8VSO>

See the app stores on your phone and search on “amateur radio” for study guides.

Online Licensing Testing:

Source of online testing nationwide: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/remote>

Get a sense of what’s needed for online testing: https://parcradio.org/pages/Online_InstructionSeparation.html

In-Person Licensing Testing:

Source: http://www.mikeandkey.org/vesessions.php#ve_mikeandkey [Check with the individual organizations to confirm they are testing.]

Note: Don’t stress on the math, you can get all the math questions wrong and still pass if you got 95% of the others right.

Studying

1. Set aside 60 minutes a day to read and do the questions in the book. Take a 5–10-minute break every thirty minutes. Alternatively, two 30-minute sessions during the day are good too.
2. If you find you don’t understand something, send your question(s) to W7DAO@arrl.net, and go on to the next page or section.
3. After the third session begin taking an online test at least every other day. Don’t expect to begin passing until you are later in the course, but taking the online test gives you experience points. When you are getting a few weeks from testing, it’s worthwhile to take a few online tests a day, it gets to be fun. When you are getting consistent scores of 80% or better you are ready. If you aren’t then email W7DAO@arrl.net.
4. At first you may feel confused and overwhelmed, this is normal, push through, it will come together.
5. A few days before going to your test session take 15 minutes each day visualizing yourself taking the test with relaxed, and with ease. Keep your breathing regular and deep and your shoulders relaxed. If you start feeling any stress during the test, take a minute, deep breath, relax your shoulders and remember the visualization, then continue.

After you pass and when you have a 2m FM radio:

Check into TechNet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM Pacific using a frequency of 146.820, PL tone: 103.5, and a negative 600 kHz offset and tell me you passed. I am net control on these nights.

