

SEAPA ENTRANCE EXAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process:

Do you want the application sent separately from the reference letters?

No, please submit all parts of your application together in one package.

When I submit my application, how will I know that you received it, and when will I know when I am accepted to sit for the exam?

You will receive an email from the SEAPA Training/Exam Committee acknowledging acceptance of your application package and whether or not you have been found qualified to move forward in the examination process.

Could you provide insight into the number of candidates to be accepted?

We will maintain a persistent list of successful applicants who are invited to begin training periodically based upon the staffing needs of the Association

When applying for the exam, does the applicant pay the entire application fee immediately? If not, when are the written exam and simulator evaluation payments due?

Only the application fee is due with the application. The written exam fee is due 10 days after an applicant is notified that they have been approved to sit for the written exam. If an applicant is successful in the written exam and moves on to the simulator evaluation, they will pay for the simulator evaluation at that time, with new written instructions being submitted to those successful candidates.

Are the reference letters mandatory?

Yes, all parts of the application packet are required to be approved to take the entrance exam.

Written Exam:

What or how do you recommend studying for the exam?

The best way to study for the exam is to study the exam blueprint and Job Task Analysis subject areas (both of those will be published fall/winter 2024), the exam bibliography, as well as being familiar with the FAQ's and simulation and written exam documents published during this process. Furthermore, we believe that there is no one right or wrong way to study for the exam – however our newer pilots have shared successful experiences such as pretending to write your own exam and making sure you can answer your own questions, flash cards for memorization, and having a study partner,

Are calculators allowed on the written exam and if not, will there be any formulas needed to be solved?

No. Calculators will not be needed on the written exam. While basic math is a part of the written exam there would not be any need to do any mathematic calculations requiring a calculator. You will be expected to understand the concepts of formulas and how they apply to piloting and their relationship to each other and their variables.

What will be allowed in the proctored room during the Written Exam?

While more specific information regarding the live proctoring will be released soon, in general you will not be allowed to have anything with you except for water/coffee. You will not be allowed to use your phone and your browser will be locked down and your desk area will need to be cleared.

How many questions will be on the Written Exam?

The Written Exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions.

What is the duration of the written exam?

A full explanation of time limits, procedures and other detailed instructions for the proctored written will be published on the SEAPA website fall / winter 2024.

Would it be possible to put out a list of sample questions to help understand the type of questions to expect and the format?

Yes, the exam team plans to publish sample questions soon.

Are the questions like the U.S. Coast Guard licensing exam questions?

No, the questions on the Written Exam are not equivalent to USCG licensing exams. Please refer to the published bibliography and exam blueprint to guide your study.

Will a local proctor be available for Written Exam at MITAGS West?

We will not have a local proctor available at MITAGS West, however our exam team is committed to helping you figure out the perfect remote proctoring option for you and will work with you individually to help make this happen.

If there is an Internet failure/loss of connection at your remote testing location can your test be resumed?

Yes! Much more information will be released shortly regarding live proctoring to include a webinar (that will also be recorded if you cannot attend live) and individual help from the exam team to make sure you have all the correct testing requirements, if needed.

If local knowledge is the base for being a pilot, why is local knowledge not being taken into account?

Local knowledge has been taken out of the equation to offer a level-playing field for mariners not from Southeast Alaska. The purpose of the Written Exam and Simulator Evaluation is to identify the most successful candidates who have a high probability of succeeding as a Southeast Alaska State Pilot. SEAPA desires to attract the best candidates from across the country and the testing process and training program are designed to give the opportunity for candidates to show their skills.

How can I be reassured that remote proctoring is safe if no other Pilotage Associations across the country are using it?

While it is true that few pilotage districts are utilizing remote proctoring, instead of looking at other pilotage districts, we looked at the testing, examination, and assessment industry as a whole. Many high stakes exams are using remote proctoring and have been for years utilizing the ISO standards. Additionally, based upon our research, remote proctoring is the wave of the future as it allows us to vet the best candidates who might not otherwise be able to attend a physical examination due to work or family commitments. We are proud to be on the leading edge of the Maritime industry.

Will I need to draw any charts from Southeast Alaska pilotage area for the written exam?

No. The written exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam.

Simulator Evaluation

Can you say what type of vessel will be used during the simulator?

Candidates successfully meeting the cut score for the Written Exam will be given more information prior to the Simulator Evaluation.

Will there be equipment failures anchoring, docking, undocking, restricted channels and meeting situations utilized during the Simulator Evaluation?

Please review the Exam Simulator Evaluation Advisements, Exam Blueprint, Job Task Analysis (to be published fall / winter 2024), along with all FAQ's and any further information that may be released.

How long will the Simulator Evaluation take?

There will be an hour familiarization session at MITAGS West. For your specific Simulator Evaluation, you should be prepared to be there for at least an hour.

What simulator at MITAGS will be utilized for the exam?

The simulator used is still to be determined.

Are there charts that we can review to prepare for the Simulator Evaluation?

All information required for the Simulator Evaluation will be provided prior to the evaluation. Please review all Exam Simulator Evaluation Advisements, Exam Blueprint, Job Task Analysis (published fall/winter 2024), along with all FAQ's and any further information that may be released.

Post Exam

Is there a limit to how many successful candidates can be placed on the list to be called up for the training program?

There is no set number or limit. Everyone who achieves the cut scores will be placed upon our list.

Assuming passing both the Written Exam and Simulator Evaluation, will respective individuals be provided with their ranking?

Yes – after each cut score is set, each candidate will be notified.

Will there be an interview process after the Simulator Evaluation prior to finalizing the list?

This is still to be determined (as of July 2024).

How many pilot spots are currently open in Southeast Alaska that the current trainees from the last exam cannot fulfill, and how long can one stay in the program waiting a slot to open?

At this time we have exhausted our current list and our next trainees will come from this exam. Successful candidates will be put on the list and invited to begin training as needed. We have semi-annual meetings and review the need to start new trainees every May and October.