

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School  
Maritime Mentorship/Work Study Program

DRAFT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Program Description: An alternative academic track offering those students who seek a career in the maritime industry the opportunity to master the basic skills necessary to pursue the academic/employment track of their choosing.

Program Goals:

- To best prepare a student for application to any of the maritime academies
- To provide the opportunity for a student to graduate with the necessary USCG credentials, e.g., Able Bodied Seaman License, to seek immediate employ in the marine industry.

Program Courses:

**Basic Seamanship (Sail Martha's Vineyard)**

(Grades 10 & 11)

2.5 Credits                      Semester                      Unweighted                      Two Periods

*Prerequisite:* Freshman Exploratory or recommendation of the Department

This introductory course is open to all sophomores and juniors. It is a basic requirement for all students planning to enroll in any of the maritime track courses. The objective of the course is to provide all maritime track candidates a basic knowledge of seamanship skills in order that they might constructively participate in the more advanced maritime track courses. A basic understanding of USCG Navigation Rules, marlinspike, basic coastal navigation, marine electronics, weather, marine mechanics and marine safety will be mastered.

**Voyaging (Sail Martha's Vineyard)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

2.5 Credits                      Two Weeks                      Unweighted                      Fall Semester

*Prerequisite:* Freshman Exploratory or recommendation of the Department

The objective of this intensive two week on-the-water experience is to create confident and competent learners in the maritime field. The Voyaging course returns sail trainees to a time when there were no auxiliary engines...to a time when there was no radar, no GPS, no depth sounders, only the wind, the sun, the stars and a lead line, a lot of common sense and a deep respect for the sea. The course will be conducted on the Island-designed and built *s/v Mabel*, a 28' Nomans Land ketch rigged skiff on the waters immediately surrounding Martha's Vineyard Island, to include Nantucket, Block Island and Vineyard Sounds and Narragansett and Buzzards Bays. Students will spend the initial part of the course sailing the vessel in local waters in a variety of conditions and begin mastering some of the skills underlying a safe passage without the aid of technology: the skills of chart reading, dead reckoning, sounding, the execution of a man-overboard recovery, and

rowing will be mastered along with pre-cruise planning, acquiring and stowing ship's stores, cooking, hygiene, ship's order, maintenance and the selection of personnel for watches

**Commercial Towing (Tisbury Towing)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

5.0 Credits                      Full Year                      Unweighted

*Prerequisite:* Completion of the Basic Seamanship course, a successful interview with the tug company management and Issuance of USCG Student Observer Certificate

This experiential course is designed to give the student practical experience and sea time on commercial tugs and barges. Over the course of the school year and summer to follow the student will be assigned specific responsibilities on the bridge, deck and engine room of a coastal tug and barge. The goal of the course is to contribute to the student's body of knowledge such that s/he can sit for and pass the USCG Able Bodied Seaman's ("AB") exam. Successful completion of the course will also provide up to 50% of the sea service requirements for an AB license. This course will continue through the summer months with the student earning a basic wage during that time.

**Marine Management 1 & 2 (The Steamship Authority)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

5.0 Credits                      Full Year                      Unweighted

*Prerequisite:* Completion of the Basic Seamanship course, a successful interview with the Steamship Authority Department of Human Resources and Issuance of USCG Student Observer Certificate

The objective of Marine Management 1 is to provide the student an opportunity to work in the various "back office" departments of the Steamship Authority, to include human resources, accounting, facilities management, ticketing and customer relations. The objective of Marine Management 2 is to offer the student the opportunity on board a Steamship Authority vessel to interact with the traveling public under the guidance of the Purser. Sea service time will be accumulated while on board. Both of these courses will continue through the summer months with the student electing which area to work while earning a basic wage during the summer months.

**Ship Operations 1 & 2 (The Steamship Authority)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

5.0 Credits                      Full Year                      Unweighted

*Prerequisite:* Completion of the Basic Seamanship course, a successful interview with the Steamship Authority Department of Human Resources and Issuance of USCG Student Observer Certificate

The objective of Ship Operations 1 is to provide the student practical experience and sea service time as a "wiper" in the engine room of one of the Steamship Authority's vessels. As such, the student will learn basic engine and systems operation, maintenance and repair. Ship Operations 2 will provide the student an opportunity to learn the operating

protocols and skills of a Steamship Authority vessel while under way as well as accumulate sea service time. Successful completion of the course will provide up to 50% of the sea service requirements for an AB license. Both of these courses will continue through the summer months with the student electing which area to work while earning a basic wage during that time.

**Marine Mechanics (Martha's Vineyard Shipyard)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

5.0 Credits                      Full Year                      Unweighted

*Prerequisite:* Completion of the Basic Seamanship course, a successful interview with the Shipyard management and Issuance of USCG Student Observer Certificate

The objective of this course is to give the student an in- Successful completion of the course will also provide up to 50% of the sea service requirements for an AB license depth knowledge of the commissioning, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of both gasoline and diesel marine engines. The student will initially apprentice with one of the Shipyard's mechanics and based upon aptitude transition into handling skill-appropriate tasks on his/her own. Spring semester will include the opportunity to travel to a manufacturer's training facility for certification in maintenance and repair of their engines. This course will continue through the summer months with the student earning a basic wage during that time.

**Wooden Boatbuilding (Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway)**

(Grades 11 & 12)

5.0 Credits                      Full Year                      Unweighted

*Prerequisite:* Completion of the Basic Seamanship course, a successful interview with the G & B management and Issuance of USCG Student Observer Certificate

The objective of this course is to provide the student with the opportunity to be exposed to wooden vessel construction through apprenticeship to Island masters whose designs have been inspired by classic yachts as well as traditional working boats. The student will learn the art of plank-on-frame construction (lapstrake or carvel, steam bent and sawn frames) and will participate in the process from design to selection of wood, construction, rigging and outfitting. An internship during the summer months may be offered to the dedicated student.