

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation

Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Chapman School of Seamanship – Stuart, Florida

The Secretary of Transportation designates the Stuart, Florida-based Chapman School of Seamanship (CSS) as a 2026 Center of Excellence for its approach to linking intensive technical instruction, industry partnerships, and rapid scaling capacity. The institution delivers accelerated, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-approved career tracks that directly address domestic mariner shortages, providing a pipeline that funnels qualified technicians and mariners into the commercial marine transportation and service sectors.

Operational Footprint & Assets

The school's training framework centers on an applied "Learn at the Helm" instructional philosophy, balancing classroom theory with intensive field operations.

- **Standardized Trade Curricula:** Conducts a 360-hour Professional Mariner Training sequence, an elite Yacht & Small Craft Surveying track, and a 360-hour nationally recognized Yamaha Marine Maintenance certification program.
- **Vessel and Safety Infrastructure:** Features a dedicated underway training fleet executing 69 hours of practical boat handling, paired with certified training complexes for Basic Firefighting and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers survival protocols.
- **Stackable Credentials:** Integrates direct examination pathways for Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels Captain's licenses, Master up to 100 Gross Registered Tons upgrades, Able Seaman ratings, and formal National Marine Electronics Association defined marine electronics certifications.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Acts as a direct pipeline for massive maritime economy, moving job-ready professionals straight into open commercial berths.

- **Proven Student Success:** Maintains an exceptional 97.8 percent graduation rate and an immediate 90.4 percent job placement rate across its core training programs.
- **Direct Track to the USCG:** Qualifies graduates to enter the USCG as active Petty Officers at the E-4 pay grade, backed by agreement with USCG Recruiting Command.
- **Veteran Career Transition:** Helps roughly 50 veterans each year transition into civilian maritime careers, leveraging the GI Bill to cover costs and open doors to high-demand technical trades.

Strategic Outlook

Chapman is expanding its training to include advanced marine electronics and American Boat and Yacht Council standards. In a national crisis, the school can instantly pivot to emergency operations by pausing its recreational programs and expanding into the Witham Field airport complex. By redirecting all its faculty and waterfront assets, Chapman can quickly scale up to train and deploy the mariners needed to keep domestic supply chains moving.