MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Clatsop Community College – Astoria, Oregon

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Clatsop Community College (CCC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its USCG-approved Training Ship program, specialized simulation labs, and broad West Coast workforce partnerships. Designated by the Oregon Legislature as Oregon's Maritime Training College, CCC delivers comprehensive afloat and ashore vocational tracks at its Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station (MERTS) campus.

Operational Footprint & Assets
Integrated instructional framework merges hands-on underway vessel training with live-fire facilities, welding labs, and simulation suites.

• **USCG Training Ship Program:** Conducts a 2-year Associate of Applied Science in Vessel Operations approved by the USCG as a Training Ship program, satisfying sea service and credentialing requirements for Able Seaman Special, OUPV, Master/Mate up to 200 GRT, Lifeboatman, and STCW endorsements.
• **High-Capacity Training Ship Enrollment:** Consistently utilizes the Training Ship program near optimal capacity, enrolling 12 students (75% capacity) in 2022–2023, 14 students (87.5% capacity) in 2023–2024, and 11 students (68.75% capacity) in 2024–2025.
• **MERTS Waterfront & Fire Infrastructure:** Operates the 50-foot working training vessel *M/V FORERUNNER* equipped with necessary tools for instruction, alongside a dedicated Fire Response and Research Center for live-fire drills and dedicated computer labs for Radar/ARPA, GMDSS, and ECDIS simulation.
• **AWS-Certified Ashore Track:** Offers an American Welding Society (AWS) certified Welding & Fabrication program, operating as an AWS SENSE participating institution and a Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO) Welder Qualifying Agency.

Workforce & Regional Impact
Serves as a primary regional workforce engine, placing trained mariners directly into commercial, research, and public sector maritime berths.

• **Audited Certificate Output:** Generated **537** USCG/STCW course certificates in 2022–2023, **458** certificates in 2023–2024, and **265** certificates year-to-date in 2024–2025 across key operational tracks including Basic Safety Training, Advanced Firefighting, Tankship Dangerous Liquids, and Radar Observer Unlimited.
• **High Mariner Volume:** Serves an average of 565 unduplicated maritime students annually, sustaining strong non-degree professional mariner enrollment (up to 378 students annually) for USCG credential upgrades and renewals.
• **Fleet & Government Partnerships:** Delivers customized workforce training for regional employers, including US Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Operations, Centerline Logistics / Olympic Tug & Barge, OSU Ship Operations, and NOAA.

• **Federal Education & Military Articulation:** Partners with the Tongue Point Job Corps Center to provide STCW Basic Training, VPDSD, Advanced Firefighting, and Tankship certifications, while transcribing military coursework for U.S. Coast Guard personnel (transcribing 4,514 college credits in 2022–2023).

Strategic Outlook

Clatsop Community College is expanding its technical offerings by developing with industry partners, a state-of-the-art 360-degree full-mission bridge simulator with tug assist. Establishing USCG-approved online license training and integrating updated navigation simulation technologies. As Oregon's designated maritime training college, CCC maintains a vital pipeline of credentialed mariners and technicians essential to sustaining Columbia River, Pacific Northwest, and national maritime supply chain operations.