

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

San Jacinto College – Pasadena, Texas

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates San Jacinto College (SJC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its regional leadership in commercial mariner credentialing, vessel simulation research, and comprehensive afloat career pathways. Operating its waterfront Maritime Technology and Training Center along the Houston Ship Channel in La Porte, Texas, SJC provides state-of-the-art postsecondary education and specialized workforce development for the Gulf Coast maritime sector.

Operational Footprint & Assets

Integrates a specialized waterfront campus, advanced simulation infrastructure, state-accredited degree pathways, and extensive USCG course approvals.

- **Afloat Degree & Certificate Pathways:** Established Texas's first and only Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Maritime Transportation, alongside a stackable 26-credit Maritime Career Interest Certificate of Technology that awards nine USCG and STCW credentials.
- **Waterfront Maritime Technology and Training Center:** Operates a 45,000-square-foot waterfront facility in La Porte featuring full-mission bridge and engine room simulators, two ship mooring docks, a barge training pad, and dedicated shipboard valve training systems.
- **USCG & STCW Approved Course Portfolio:** Delivers 71 USCG and STCW-approved courses supported by a faculty of Coast Guard-approved Captains, Chief Engineers, and military veterans with over 225 years of combined maritime experience.
- **Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship:** Houses a DOL-registered Able Seaman (Tankerman) apprenticeship program comprising 4,000 on-the-job training hours and 312 hours of technical instruction at the maritime campus.
- **National Simulation & Infrastructure Research Hub:** Integrates a \$1.3 million full-mission simulation suite in partnership with the Houston Pilots, conducting channel research for the Houston Ship Channel expansion project and storm-surge modeling for the \$31 billion coastal spine project authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Serves as a primary workforce engine for Port Houston operators, Gulf Coast tug and barge fleets, and deepwater energy transport.

- **USCG Mariner Credentialing Volume:** Trains more than 1,400 seafarers annually and has issued over 16,000 USCG certificates since 2010, reaching a program-record 3,212 USCG certificates issued in CY2022.
- **Commercial Workforce Throughput:** Achieved 2,899 commercial non-credit course enrollments across 1,494 unduplicated students in CY2022, marking a 30% year-over-year

enrollment surge driven by regional industry demand.

- **Academic Degrees & Internship Rotations:** Has awarded 140 A.A.S. degrees in Maritime Transportation and placed students in 280 industry vessel internship rotations, maintaining a 100% summer internship placement rate.
- **Verified Job Placement:** Secures a 100% pre-graduation employment rate for credit degree graduates, with Texas Workforce Commission data confirming a 100% post-graduation employment rate within one year for the 2022 A.A.S. cohort (and 93.7% for 2020 and 2021).
- **Industry & Employer Governance:** Guided by an active 18-member Maritime Advisory Committee, securing paid internships and equipment donations from major regional operators including Kirby Marine, Marquette Transportation, Centerline Marine, Buffalo Marine, G&H Towing, and Houston Pilots.
- **K-12 & Dual-Credit Pipelines:** Serves on the board of Port Houston Partners in Maritime Education (PHPME), delivers high school dual-credit certificate pathways across two K-12 school districts, and hosts the annual Maritime & Logistics Youth Expo (MYLE) for over 750 regional high school students.

Strategic Outlook

Through strategic partnerships, SJC is expanding higher education articulation and regional workforce capacity. The district is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) to establish a 2+2 transfer pathway from the A.A.S. in Maritime Transportation into a baccalaureate program, along with student participation in TAMUG's summer sea tour. As a founding member of the National Maritime Workforce Alliance (NMWA) and active leader on the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee, San Jacinto College continues scaling prior learning credit for military veterans, expanding commercial mariner recertifications, and supplying the skilled mariners needed to power Gulf Coast energy export terminals and national security shipping.