

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

**Tidewater Community College –
Portsmouth, Virginia**

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates Tidewater Community College (TCC), incorporating the Portsmouth Campus and Skilled Trades Academy nodes, as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE). TCC Portsmouth functions as the central administrative and operational headquarters for TCC's Engineering, Maritime, and Skilled Trades Pathway, housing the TCC Apprenticeship Institute, the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) Apprentice Program, and the Skilled Trades Academy.

Operational Footprint & Assets

- **Skilled Trades Academy (STA):** Operates a dedicated 20,000-square-foot facility (expanding to 32,000 sq ft) equipped with 25 specialized welding booths, 10 marine coatings training modules, 5 pipefitting modules, and a dedicated ship fitting laboratory.
- **Portsmouth Campus Welding & HVACR Complex:** Features 40 welding booths, dedicated welding classrooms, 2 HVACR instructional labs, and flexible space for maritime technologies.
- **AWS Accredited Test Facility:** Holds official designation as an American Welding Society (AWS) Accredited Test Facility for structural steel and pipe code qualification.
- **Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) Academic Center:** Provides dedicated, co-located space for apprentices to complete academic related instruction on-site during normal working shifts.
- **USCG-Approved Afloat & STCW Facilities:** Fully authorized to deliver USCG-approved mariner licensing and safety courses, including Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels, Master 100 Ton Upgrades, Basic Fire Fighting, and STCW safety modules.

Workforce & Regional Impact

- **USCG OUPV Credentialing Performance:** Graduated 53 total mariners through the USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV) course between 2021 and 2024.
- **Norfolk Naval Shipyard Apprenticeship:** Provides technical instruction for ~200 new NNSY apprentices annually across a four-year program stackable into the Trade Technician CSC and A.A.S. in Maritime Technologies.
- **Virginia Ship Repair Association (VSRA) MTT Output:** Delivers non-credit Marine Trade Training (MTT) in welding, pipefitting, sheet metal, and coatings, serving 306 students in 2022-2023 with a historical hiring rate exceeding 90%.
- **Pre-Apprenticeship & High School Pipelines:** Coordinates regional pre-apprenticeship programs across Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach public school divisions.

Strategic Outlook

TCC Portsmouth anchors regional defense mobilization, operating as a direct classroom extension for Norfolk Naval Shipyard and regional ship repairers. Its expanded Skilled Trades

Academy and AWS Accredited Test Facility allow rapid surge training for structural welders, pipefitters, and marine coaters during naval vessel repair emergencies and fleet overhaul backlogs.