

# Maine Maritime Academy *NEWS*

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## MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY PAIRS MASTERS PROGRAM WITH SMALL VESSEL LICENSE

CASTINE, Maine –Maine Maritime Academy’s (MMA) Loeb-Sullivan School of International Business and Logistics will begin offering a limited vessel operator’s license option in conjunction with the School’s Master of Science degree program in Maritime Management. According to Capt. Andy Chase, coordinator of the specialty program, students may simultaneously study at the graduate level while enrolling in courses necessary to qualify for a limited vessel operator’s license. The hybrid program taps courses already offered in the college’s undergraduate A.S. and B.S. programs in Small Vessel Operations and pairs them with courses leading to the Master of Science degree. Students successfully completing the full course of study will receive an M.S. degree in Maritime Management and qualify to test for a USCG 200-ton, near coastal mate’s license.

According to Chase the program was developed in an effort to address increased graduate student interest in acquiring licensing credentials from the college’s undergraduate program in Small Vessel Operations. “We’ve had a number of potential students approach as part of a career change or as an initiative to gain advanced business management training and request a process by which they can obtain a near coastal vessel license,” said Chase. “In this pairing we’ve tried to coordinate a sequence of courses that allows for this to happen and harness the best of two very strong programs available at Maine Maritime.” Chase noted that the program promises to be of particular interest to professional pleasure and small craft operators seeking management education endorsed by an advanced degree and a professional license.

He added that the program assists previously degreed students who may have been limited by federal financial aid regulations which restrict aid eligibility to only those programs leading to an advanced degree. Through the graduate-level program, students can advance their degree as required for financial aid consideration while accessing credentials only previously available at the college as part of the undergraduate curriculum.

Students entering the program are expected to be able to complete the full graduate-level program and vessel operator courses in 5 sequential academic semesters. The proposed schedule also includes one required summer cooperative work experience for academic credit taken concurrently with a graduate elective course offered during the summer module. Modules are condensed academic sessions lasting 5 weeks. According to Chase, the summer cooperative work experience is expected to foster an industry-based capstone research project. All students seeking the Master of Science degree will be required to successfully complete the graduate admissions process for the college. The program is currently accepting applicants for fall 2006.

Potential students interested in the hybrid M.S. degree program in Maritime Management and limited vessel operator’s license program are encouraged to visit <http://bell.mma.edu/~marinetrans/svo-masters.html> for program specifics. Complete degree program overviews and graduate admission information may be obtained online at <http://ibl.mainemaritime.edu>, or by contacting Maine Maritime Academy’s Loeb-Sullivan School of International Business and Logistics at 207-326-2212.