

CAMPUS BOUND

PREMIER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
and FINANCIAL AID SERVICES

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-1803

FAST FACTS

Website: www.maritime.edu
Public or Private: Public
Campus Setting: Small Town
Total Enrollment: 1,050
Undergraduates: 1,000
Male/Female: 75% / 25%
SAT CR Range: 470 – 570
SAT Math Range: 480 – 590
ACT Range: 20 – 24
Applicants: N/A
Accepted: N/A
Enrolled: N/A
Returning Freshmen: 78%
Living on Campus: 100%
Admissions Contact:
508-830-5000
admissions@maritime.edu

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The Quick Overview

As the oldest continuous state maritime academy in the country, Massachusetts Maritime has perfected the art of an education that combines knowledge, training, and practice. As a member of the Massachusetts public system of colleges and universities, Mass Maritime fits into the “specialized colleges” category as only six academic majors—all related to Marine engineering, management, or safety—are offered. While the Academy presents difficult academic, mental, and physical challenges, all students graduate with leadership skills that they may not acquire at a typical university.

History, Mission, and Geography

Established in 1891 by the state legislature, Mass Maritime was originally named the Massachusetts Nautical Training School, and its purpose was to graduate deck and engineering officers for the U.S. Merchant Marine. In 1942 it was renamed Massachusetts Maritime Academy and today’s graduates are not required to serve in the active or reserve areas of the military; service is by choice only. The campus sits on a 55-acre area located in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, the town immediately before the bridge to Cape Cod. The academic buildings and dorms are surrounded by the Cape Cod Canal on three sides and the buildings are modern and made mostly of brick or concrete. For the majority of the school year, the students reside right on campus or on *The USTS Enterprise*, a 550-foot training ship docked right on campus. For about two months of the year, *The USTS Enterprise* becomes home to the students as they travel to more than a dozen countries.

Academics

Mass Maritime offers Bachelor of Science degrees in the following areas: Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, Facilities and Environmental Engineering, International Marine Business, and Emergency Management. While the majors are all marine-focused, students are required to take

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classes in English and the humanities as a part of the general requirements as well. All students at Mass Maritime are referred to as cadets and similar to any branch of the armed services, cadets move up in rank with time, training, and experience. Freshmen, called “youngies,” arrive on campus early for a grueling program that is both physically and mentally demanding. One freshman says, “Those two weeks during my training I learned more about myself than I ever could have. I wanted to give up but all the officers and squad leaders kept me going.” The orientation serves to get the students into shape quickly while also introducing them to the basics of shipboard safety and procedure.

The academic calendar is comprised of two academic semesters and one sea term. Students can declare their major during freshman or sophomore year, but some like to get experience and explore all the options before they officially make a decision. Youngies will take a varied course load during freshman year, but as they get deeper within their major classes become more and more specific. The sea term, which is required by all students, occurs between the two academic semesters and is a time when the entire student body boards the *The USTS Enterprise* for a two-month sail. The ship will sail to various ports in the Caribbean three out of the four years, and on the fourth year, students visit the Mediterranean. One student remarks, “At least one of your visits to the Caribbean includes a sail through the Panama Canal. That is quite an experience.” While students certainly have some opportunities to explore their destinations, the Sea Term is in no way a pleasure cruise. During their time on-board, cadets rotate through classes and labs as well as ship operational duties which may include ship operation, deck and engine watches, maintenance, and safety drills.

Student Body

Because of Mass Maritime's unique structure that specifically focuses on maritime academics, the Academy is not for everyone. An admissions officer says, “Students that are primarily looking for training for one of the branches of the armed services would not be happy here. Our academic curriculum is just as rigorous as the physical training. Students also should realize that our majors are maritime specific.” With that said, many of the students at MMA have, in fact, grown up close to the ocean. The typical student at Mass Maritime is usually one that strives for structure in his or her life and who looks for a balance of academic and hands-on training in order to succeed. One first class cadet (a senior) says, “Students that were not serious or maybe got lost in the shuffle tend to do really well here. These students gravitate towards structure.” While more women have joined the Academy in recent years, the student body still has far more males. One young woman says, “Being in a mostly male environment has helped me overcome so many challenges that I may not have faced at a typical college.”

Campus and Residential Life

While students take their academic and training responsibilities seriously, there is also time here and there for a little fun. Like any school, Mass Maritime has a variety of clubs and activities to get involved with that include drama, community service, government, school newspaper, and music. While the town of Buzzards Bay and the nearby Cape Cod area are often barren in the off-season, they offer all the necessities that college students need. Students who are looking for a party atmosphere are warned to steer clear. A student says, “There are really strict rules in regards to drinking and partying. Most students find that it's not even worth it to even take a chance.”

While partying is said to be virtually nonexistent, one student says, “Whereas at other universities, students party together to become close, we get close during our intensive training.” This appears to be true because over and over the students at Mass Maritime say that the best parts of Mass Maritime are

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the friendships. One student remarks, “I have been at some of the lowest and highest points of my life with my classmates. They were with me when I wanted to quit basic training, and they were with me when I climbed the Leaning Tower of Pisa. These people know me better than anyone.”

Athletics

Mass Maritime has a variety of fall and spring sports that compete at the NCAA Division III level. Because students are away at sea during the winter season, winter sports such as basketball are only played at the intramural level. With physical fitness being such an integral part of Mass Maritime, many students enjoy playing club and intramural sports. In fact, over 75% of students take part in some form of Mass Maritime Athletics. In recent years, the cross country team has done particularly well, and so have the baseball and softball teams.

The College in a Nutshell

Without a doubt, students who complete Mass Maritime’s intensive program enter the real world with discipline and leadership skills that appeal to many top companies. While the majority of students do land jobs in a marine-related field, some will become very successful at top-rate companies. As one student says, “I was a total goof-off in high school, but I couldn’t be more interested in my studies here and more excited to graduate and enter the real world.” For students who are ready to take on the immense challenge, Massachusetts Maritime Academy guarantees to change lives.

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