

Want a Ham Radio License? Let's count the ways...

Getting your Ham radio license requires you to pass a simple test. There's many different ways to prepare for the test from the "I can't wait" approach to the "I want to learn more" approach.

Probably the best source of licensing-related information is the training page at the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) – visit <http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training>. The next best sources are any of the local ham radio clubs and the volunteer Ham Radio Emergency Coordinator for your city. Check www.scc-ares-races.org for club and city contacts.

I Can't Wait – I Want It Now!

The best way is to attend a "ham cram" session. This is a one day, 8-hour study session where you simply memorize the answers to the questions. At the end of the day you take the test. The group offering these sessions claims a better than 90% success rate. The downside is that you won't learn much about ham radio, but you will have a license. See www.baears.com for more information..

A great follow-up to a ham cram are two free classes that are offered soon after ham-cram sessions. Go to <https://www.scc-ares-races.org/activities/events.php> and look for the "Intro" and "Fundamentals" classes.

I Want To Read and Study

Buy a book. The "Ham Radio License Manual" is easy to read and has all of the test questions and the answers! You can buy it at Ham Radio Outlet (www.hamradio.com) or buy it online at <http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training> After studying, you need to sign up for an exam session and take the test.

I Want to Take a Class

Classes are offered by several ham clubs in the bay area, but it will require a little research to find the time and place that fits your calendar. Classes may be as short as 4 weeks or as long as 13 weeks or more. See the ARRL website link listed above for more information.

I Want to Meet Other Hams First

There are several clubs in the area. Each one has its own personality. Most focus somewhat on emergency prep, but not exclusively. Visit www.scc-ares-races.org/activities/events.php and look for "Clubs" in the right menu bar.

I Just Want To Help My City

If you just want to help your city out in an emergency and you're not necessarily interested talking around the world, contact your city's volunteer coordinator. Visit www.scc-ares-races.org and look for "City Emergency Coordinators" in the middle column