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# CAREER CHOICES

## On Course For Career Success As A Merchant Mariner

(NAPSA)—While there are few guarantees in life, one vocational training program actually guarantees its graduates an initial job.

The training center, located in Piney Point, Md., is affiliated with the Seafarers International Union (SIU) and its contracted companies. Its mission is to provide the training needed for a successful career as a United States Merchant Mariner.

There is no tuition or room and board costs for the entry level program. Students, however, are expected to cover the cost of travel to the facility, clothing and pre-entry medical screening.

Established in 1967, The Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education offers the most U.S. Coast Guard-approved courses of any maritime school in the nation.

The center offers everything from entry training to license preparation to academic support and more. As vocational training for U.S. mariners seemingly becomes more important each year, the center provides state-of-the-art schooling. For example, an engine department simulator at the school provides training for engine room watchkeeping, diesel propulsion and electrical power plants.

Additionally, the simulator includes an auxiliary system, machinery simulator, plus crane and liquid cargo simulation.

Students also have opportunities to benefit from a bridge simulator, which makes it possible to upgrade training in voyage planning and execution, coastal and offshore navigation, collision avoidance and search and rescue operations.

Training is also available in bridge watchkeeping procedures, oil spill response management,



**The Paul Hall Center offers a 12-week training program in basic seamanship.**

culinary arts and bridge team management.

Recently, the school opened a Coast Guard-approved safety school at Barber's Point, Honolulu, Hawaii. The satellite facility trains students for new job opportunities aboard U.S.-flag cruise ships, while helping meet the increased demand for trained mariners from Hawaii.

The Seafarers International Union, Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Water District, AFL-CIO represents unlicensed United States merchant mariners sailing aboard U.S.-flag vessels into the deep sea, Great Lakes and inland trades. The union also represents licensed U.S. mariners in the Great Lakes and inland sectors.

Seafarers typically enjoy competitive pay, freedom in scheduling, good medical coverage for themselves and their families, a pension plan and a contract that spells out safe working conditions, vacation benefits and more.

To learn about the training center and the union, visit the Web site at [www.seafarers.org](http://www.seafarers.org) or call toll-free at (877) 235-3275.