



QMs stand watch as assistants to officers of the deck and the navigator; serve as helmsman and perform ship control, navigation and bridge watch duties. QMs procure, correct, use and stow navigational and oceanographic publications and oceanographic charts. They maintain navigational instruments and keep correct navigational time; render "honors and ceremonies" in accordance with national observance and foreign customs; send and receive visual messages; and serve as petty officers in charge of tugs, self-propelled barges and other yard and district craft.

Qualifications

Quartermasters must be U.S. citizens and be able to meet all security clearance requirements. A good working knowledge of arithmetic, the capability for understanding modern computing devices, the ability to speak and write well and function as a member of an integrated team, do detailed work and keep accurate records, some physical strength and good manual dexterity are important qualifications.

Advancement

Enlistees enter the Navy as E-1s (seaman recruits). Advancement to E-2 (seaman apprentice) may be achieved after nine months of successful naval service, with advancement to E-3 (seaman) after an additional nine months. Re-enlistment bonuses for eligible personnel are paid at the time of re-enlistment. All bonuses are in addition to Navy salary and allowances for food and housing.

Credit Recommendations

American Council on Education recommends 5 semester hours credit in the lower division baccalaureate/Associate degree category: 3 semester hours in Marine Navigation and 2 semester hours in marine navigation laboratory.

Opportunities

Because of the skills and expertise needed by the Quartermaster as well as the level of trust and responsibility given them early on, acceptance is limited to highly motivated and qualified applicants. About

Career Path Following Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training and formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	Great Lakes, IL	9 Weeks	Navigation and Oceanography	Group instruction, classroom

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to operate electronic navigation equipment. They will be able to conduct weather observations, determine compass and gyro error, compute tide and tidal current data, keep logs and records, determine their ship's position by visual and electronic means, compute times of sunrise and sunset, and follow the nautical rules-of-the-road to prevent collisions at sea. After "A" school, USN Quartermasters are assigned to all types of ships. FTS QMs are assigned to NRF ships in CONUS. Upon completion of sea tours, FTS QMs will be assigned to reserve centers across the country including the heartland. While assigned to reserve centers FTS QMs will train and administer Selected Reserve Personnel. During a 20-year period in the Navy, QMs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.

2,000 men and women work in the QM rating. Graduates of QM "A" School will be assigned to ships in the United States or overseas.

(Revised 10/12)

Working Environment

Quartermasters usually work in a clean, air-conditioned electronic equipment space or the ship's bridge/pilot house, and frequently perform their work as part of a team, but may work on individual projects. Their work is mostly mental analysis and problem solving. USN QMs are stationed primarily aboard USN deploying ships, FTS QMs are stationed aboard Naval Reserve Force (NRF) ships that deploy or conduct local operations.

Civilian Occupational Equivalents

To see Related Civilian Occupations for this rating:

QM -

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/enlisted/qm.htm>

For more information on opportunities available for this rating, please visit Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) at <https://www.cool.navy.mil/index.htm>

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.