



BM – Boatswain’s Mate

Boatswain’s Mate, the oldest rate in the Navy, has a rich history of honored traditions. BM’s are the leaders and backbone of every ship’s crew. A Boatswain Mate maintains the exterior surfaces of ships, deck handling machinery and equipment, handle cargo and operate small boats during a number of evolutions including Anti-Terrorism Operations and Maritime Interdiction boardings of suspect ships.

What They Do

- Stand watch as helmsman, lookouts, and Boatswain Mate of the Watch.
- Repairing, maintaining and stowing equipment in preparation for underway operations.
- Search and Rescue swimmer.
- Standing security watches while in port and underway.
- Operating sound-powered telephone systems.
- Serving as a member of damage control, emergency and security alert teams.
- Participating in naval ceremonies.
- Underway replenishment (transferring supplies from ship to ship at sea).
- Small boat operations.
- Flight deck and amphibious operations.
- Taking command of tugs, barges and other small craft.
- Supervising deck crew in cleaning, painting and maintaining ships and their equipment.
- Direct boat crews in landing and rescue operations.
- Teaching seamanship.
- Serving as flight deck crew during helicopter operations.

Working Environment

Boatswain’s mates perform most of their duties outdoors, working closely with others, and the majority of work is of a physical nature..

Opportunities

Promotion opportunities are above average when compared to other Navy ratings for men and women who can demonstrate the requisite knowledge and qualifications.

Qualifications and Interests

BM’s must be able to get along well with others and to speak clearly and distinctly. Other qualities include resourcefulness, a good memory, curiosity, physical strength, manual dexterity, the ability to work as a team member and to perform repetitive tasks.

Earn College Credit



The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor’s/associate’s degree categories for courses taken in this rating on office machines and general clerical procedures. To see the college credits available via a **Joint Service Transcript** for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/bm_jst.pdf

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or 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
Boatswain Mate “A” School	Great Lakes, IL	Approximately 6 Weeks	Basic general safety, watch standing, deck seamanship, underway replenishment, preventive maintenance.	Group instruction and practical application

Upon completion of Recruit Training, BM’s are taught fundamental skills needed to perform in a shipboard environment during a four week “A” school. Selected BMs receive amphibious training following A school depending on future assignment. During a 20-year period in the Navy, BM’s spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent assigned to shore stations.



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Earn Department of Labor (DOL) Nationally Recognized Apprenticeships



USMAP

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty and Full Time Support (FTS) Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion. Visit United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) for LS apprenticeships.

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<https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/navyRates.htm>

Earn Industry Recognized Credentials



Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL) Navy COOL catalogs and defines comprehensive information on occupational credentials - including certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships - correlating with every Navy rating and some collateral duties. It provides "how to" instructions for pursuing these credentials, links to credentialing organizations, and cross-references to programs that help Sailors pay for credentialing fees. Shortly following the initial rating technical training (Class "A" technical school), Sailors may be able to take advantage of earning civilian/industry certifications & licenses (credentials), funded through Navy COOL. Visit the Navy COOL website to view these opportunities. See the link below.

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

Manage a Navy Career with Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap)



To see the Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap) for this rating:

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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/bm_e1_e9.pdf

Earn Skill Sets Towards Civilian Related Occupations



The skill sets for this rating crosswalk to civilian related occupations listed by the U.S. Department of Labor. To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating, see the link below.

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

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