



QM – QuarterMaster

QuarterMaster Sailors stand watch as assistants to officers of the deck and navigators; serve as helmsman and perform ship control, navigation, and bridge watch duties

What They Do

- Procure, correct, use and stow navigational and oceanographic publications and oceanographic charts.
- Maintain navigational instruments.
- Keep correct navigational time.
- Render "Honors and Ceremonies" in accordance with national observance and foreign custom.
- Send and receive visual messages.
- Serve as petty officers in charge of tug boats self-propelled barges and other yard craft and district craft.

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..

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 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.

Qualifications and Interests

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.

Normal hearing and color perception is required for this rating.

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/qm_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
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.



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https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/qm_e1_e9.pdf

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/qm.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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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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