



PILOTING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUGET SOUND COMMITTEE

We are sharing this information in hopes that you will consider a career as a Puget Sound Pilot. As a professional mariner, I can attest that there is no higher aspiration in our industry than to become a pilot. As a Puget Sound Pilot, you will be able to balance that stimulating and challenging career with a home life in beautiful Puget Sound.

Why Become a Puget Sound Pilot?

- Piloting is the pinnacle of our profession. As a Puget Sound pilot you will have the opportunity to grow professionally and develop your skills to the highest level possible. You will handle some of the biggest ships that sail and enjoy a world class professional educational program.
- Puget Sound pilots are selected through a non-discriminatory, open application system administered by the State of Washington. There is no apprenticeship process and no local knowledge is needed to apply. The process is open to all. Applicants receive an objective evaluation without regard to gender, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, age, or any other characteristic or status that is protected by law.
- There's an excellent training program that pays a stipend or can be done while keeping your day job.
- Piloting in Puget Sound offers a good work/life balance. If you love the sea and have a family there's no better maritime opportunity than being a Puget Sound Pilot. You can live at home.
- Pilots on Puget Sound protect one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world. By safely guiding ships, you will help safeguard the pristine and

spectacular Puget Sound from environmental damage; make its waters safe for recreational users and help defend our country by being on the front line of our security efforts.

- There's economic security for you and your family—pilots are the top earners in the maritime field. Puget Sound has a well-diversified and stable shipping industry made up of container, cruise, bulk, auto and tank vessel traffic.

Please consider the professional challenge of becoming a Puget Sound pilot. For more information, contact us at popscommittee@gmail.com or visit the Washington Pilotage Commission at www.pilotage.wa.gov or the Puget Sound Pilots at www.pspilots.org.

Sincerely,

Captain Jill Russell

Chair, Piloting Opportunities in Puget Sound Committee

Committee Members:

- Jill F. Russell, Captain & Committee Chair
Connie Buhl, Chief Engineer (Ret.)
Michele G. Bullock, Captain
Jonathan Ward, Captain & President, Puget Sound Pilots
Patricia Crawford, Crawford Nautical School
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Career News for Students in the Maritime Industry

Puget Sound Pilots serve at the pinnacle of the maritime profession, and being a Puget Sound Pilot can be a terrific career if you plan for it. You can seek career guidance while still in school that puts you on a long-term plan so that you can become a qualified applicant in 12-15 years.

Why become a Puget Sound Pilot?

1. **The non-discriminatory, open application system** administered by Washington State for pilots ensures an objective evaluation of all qualified individuals without regard to their gender, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, age, or any other characteristic or status that is protected by federal, state or local law. No prior local knowledge or federal pilotage is needed.
2. **It's a family-friendly occupation**, and unlike many other maritime jobs, you can live at home. If you love the sea and have a family there's no better maritime opportunity than being a Puget Sound Pilot.
3. **There's economic security for you and your family.** Puget Sound Pilots serve at the pinnacle of their careers and your training and experience pay off with excellent earning potential.
4. **You help protect a great quality of life now and for future generations.** Being a Puget Sound Pilot provides an opportunity to be a steward of the environment by safely and expertly piloting ships protecting the pristine waters of Puget Sound.
5. **There's an excellent training program** that includes a stipend or can be done while keeping your day job.

If you think you might want to be a Puget Sound Pilot, you have career choices that can make a real difference. For further information please contact the Piloting Opportunities in Puget Sound Committee at popscommittee@gmail.com. More information can be obtained at the websites of the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners www.pilotage.wa.gov or Puget Sound Pilots www.pspilots.org.



PILOTING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUGET SOUND COMMITTEE

Interested Applicants: Steps to Becoming a Qualified Puget Sound Pilot Applicant

FAQs

How do I become a Qualified Applicant?

It's important to note that you don't need local knowledge to be qualified to apply. The application requirements set forth by the State of Washington are as follows:

1. Applicants must meet Washington State pre-examination requirements set forth in **RCW 88.16.090**.
2. Applicants must meet one of the following **service requirements** as master while holding a master's license for steam or motor vessels of at least 1600 GRT:

Vessel Type	Minimum Size	Waters	Minimum Time
Cargo or tank	5000 GRT or 10,000 GT (ITC)	Ocean or near coastal	1 year
Cargo or tank	700 GRT or 1400 GT (ITC)	Ocean or near coastal	2 years
Cargo or tank	1600 GRT or 3000 GT (ITC)	Inland	2 years
Passenger or ferry	1600 GRT or 3000 GT (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years
Towing	150 GRT or 300 GT (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years

NOTES:

- In calculating sea service, a year of service shall equal three hundred sixty days of service on the vessel in the required capacity.
 - In lieu of the requirements above, a pilot applicant may **substitute** either: three years of service as an active member of an organized professional pilot association or as a government employed pilot during which periods the pilot applicant was actively engaged in piloting while holding a minimum license as a master of steam or motor vessels of not more than 1600 GRT or 3000 GT (ITC) upon oceans, near coastal waters or inland waters. For purposes of this section, piloting shall refer to piloting vessels in the capacity of the pilot in charge of navigation; or Two years of service as a commanding officer or master of U.S. flag government vessels of not less than 3000 displacement tons; or Two years of service on certain “special use” vessels. The pilot applicant must hold at the time of application a minimum license as master of steam or motor vessels of not more than 1600 GRT or 3000 GT (ITC) upon oceans, near coastal waters or inland waters.
 - Complete information about Washington State sea service requirements for pilot applicant qualification can be found at WAC 363-116-0751 at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=363-116-0751>.
3. Applicants need not have federal pilotage until the time of final licensing.
 4. Following verification of sea service, applicants must pass the non-local written examination, pass a simulator evaluation and successfully complete a training program. See WAC 363-116-076, 363-116-077 and 363-116-078 which can be found at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=363-116-076>.
 5. All programs are nondiscriminatory and administered by the Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners (www.pilotage.wa.gov).
 6. Pilots are members of Puget Sound Pilots (www.pspilots.org).

For more information about being a pilot on Puget Sound please contact the Jill Russell, Chair of the Piloting Opportunities in Puget Sound Committee, at popscommittee@gmail.com or visit www.pspilots.org/community/for-women-mariners.



PILOTING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUGET SOUND COMMITTEE

Qualified Applicants: Steps to Becoming a Puget Sound Pilot

FAQs

What happens once I've been accepted as a qualified pilot applicant?

1. Qualified applicants will need to take two examinations (written and simulator) and complete a training program.
 - a. Both the written and simulator examinations are non-local, general mariner knowledge.
 - b. State requirements for both the written and simulator examinations are found in [WAC 363-116-076 and 077](#).
2. The written examination:

Pilot applicants must pass a written examination:

- The board will set the minimum passing score for the written examination.
- Notice of the examination shall be published at least four months before it is given and will be given to any party who has requested notice.
- The board may, in an emergency, call for an examination on less than four months' notice.
- The examination may be taken by all pilot applicants who the board has determined have met the qualifications outlined in [WAC 363-116-0751](#)

3. The simulator evaluation:

Pilot applicants who pass the written exam with a passing score may then take the simulator examination pursuant to [WAC 363-116-077](#):

- The simulator examination is a fair process based on objective assessments and evaluation by 4-5 evaluators; each exam is also recorded visually and on audio.
- At the exam each candidate is given a bridge team and the exam takes 45-55 minutes.
- In the simulator applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:
 - Fundamental piloting and ship handling ability.
 - Ability to assimilate and prioritize all data necessary to safely maneuver the ship;
 - Ability to respond appropriately in routine situations;
 - Ability to respond appropriately in emergency or non-routine situations;
 - Ability to communicate well and project the proper bridge presence;
 - Understanding of bridge resource management; and
 - Understanding and command of the Rules of the Road then applicable to the pilotage district for which the pilot applicant is applying.

4. Ranking of Candidates:

Finally, after completion of both the written and simulator examinations, the two scores are combined and candidates are ranked on a list accordingly. As training slots become available, candidates are selected in order of this ranking.

5. Training Program:

Training takes a minimum of 8 months (and up to 36 months if on a stipend), tailored to the individual; 18 jobs or assignments per month must be completed if you are on the stipend. You can complete federal pilotage and local knowledge requirements while you're in the training program.