

The following is information you may find useful if you want to receive an FCC Technician License to use an Amateur Radio.

To become an Amateur Radio operator you need to pass the FCC Element 2 exam and obtain your FCC Technician Radio Operators license. The Technician License allows you to go on the air using all the UHF and VHF Amateur Radio frequency bands commonly used for local contacts and regional emergency communications and to experiment with some of the longer range HF radio frequencies.

Earning your FCC Technician License is as simple as passing the 35 question FCC Element 2 multiple choice written exam. And it's not complicated -- no Morse Code is required. All you need to do is study some of the FCC rules and regulations and learn a little bit about how radios and repeaters systems work. With a little preparation, the FCC Element 2 exam is easy to pass.

Exams are given by Volunteer Examiners – experienced Hams who administer the test as a public service at local locations. Exams are scheduled frequently - usually every week. Exam times and places can be found on the American Radio Relay League website:

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

There are a number of ways to study for the Technician Exam -- Amateur Radio clubs have free classes, classes are available on line, and there are excellent self-study books available. My wife and I passed the Technician exam by studying "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" on our own a few hours a day for a few weeks and by taking the practice tests we found at <http://www.qrz.com/hamtest/> -- that's all it took.

You can take the sample tests on line and learn if your answers were correct, and if not, the correct ones. You will eventually learn the answers to all the questions in the FCC Exam question pool. Some have passed the exam simply by practicing the sample tests on [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com).

["The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Edition"](#) is published by the Amateur Radio Relay League. It sells for \$29.95 and is available from Ham Radio Outlet in Burbank and at other radio supply stores. It's also available on line from the ARRL at:

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual-3rd-Edition/>

Make sure the edition you purchase contains the question pool effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 for the most up to date information. This well written text is easy to read and contains all the questions available for use on the FCC exam.

The <http://www.qrz.com> and <http://arrl.org> web sites both contain a wealth of information to help you obtain a license.

Another book you might consider is the "2010-2014 Technician Class" by Gordon West (\$21.95), available at most radio supply stores, amateur radio stores, and on the Internet at http://www.w5yi.org/catalog_details.php?pid=76&sort=5www.w5yi.

I recommend the ARRL book, self study, and taking the sample tests. It's inexpensive and you can study at home at your own pace. Take the practice exams BEFORE and AFTER each time you study. By taking the exam before and after each time you will become familiar with the kinds of questions asked on the test and you will be able to track your learning. If there is an area where you still have questions, reread the book and become more familiar with it.

If there's something you don't understand in the book or on the tests I may be able to help you with a phone call or two. If not, there are other experienced Hams who are excellent teachers and will be pleased to help. And there are free Amateur Radio classes in the Los Angeles area.

When all else fails, Amateur Radio works.

Jonathan Zimmerman K6JGZ
jgzimmerman@sbcglobal.net
LAFD ACS-CERT Liaison
LAFD ACS Battalion 14 Communications Group Leader