



So, you want to become a ham radio operator...

How do I get my license?

In order to get your Ham Radio license, you will need to pass a 35-question multiple-choice test, which costs \$15. Please note that the FCC will charge an additional \$35 license application fee after you have successfully passed the exam. There are many other ways to study for the exam. See details, below.

Where do I take the exam?

The Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club holds a testing session on the 2nd Saturday at 10am on each EVEN numbered month: February, April, June, August, October, and December, in the conference room at the Sebastian County Emergency Communications and Training Facility at 8400 Zero St.

How do I study?

Try one or two of the methods below and see what you like. A combination of methods may work best for you. There are other good options out there. These are some that others have used or sampled and found to be helpful.

- There is a great free book that helps you study for the exam. It does not include in-depth information about Ham radio, just what you need to know to pass the exam. Go to <https://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/> and scroll down to “Free PDF Version”. You will want the one for the “Technician” license. You can also buy a hard copy or an audio book there, if you prefer either of those formats.
- Hamstudy.org is a great FREE self-study website. You’ll need to create an account. Make sure you study “Technician (Starting July 1, 2022)”. Here is the link: <https://hamstudy.org/>. They have phone apps for iPhone and Android. [Hamstudy Android App](#). [Hamstudy iPhone App](#). The phone apps are \$3.99.
- David Casler has a great series of videos that explain the material on the exam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mP-Qe2SYwI&list=PLUSupIQSpnLCCFN4JDmXpUgVxBtdIBnNq>
- Good series, based on ARRL Tech License Manual. Dave Casler is involved. They have links so you can download the slide decks as PDFs, and MP3 audio files of the videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI3DKjqB4OLY2UXm2KqDpwQ>
- There is an audio book available on Audible. It has very good reviews. If you’re a fan of audio books, this could be a great option! <https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Fast-Track-to-Your-Technician-Class-Ham-Radio-License-Audiobook/B00VATYHAY>
- There is a pay website, [Hamtestonline](#), that has done a great job of organizing and presenting the material. Many people find this to be the most effortless way to pass the exam. It costs about thirty dollars.
- The ARRL Technician License Manual is too in-depth to be considered a study guide, but it is a great resource on really understanding the material on the exam. We recommend the spiral-bound edition: <https://www.amazon.com/ARRL-Ham-Radio-License-Manual/dp/1625951558>



- There are 423 questions in the question pool. These are publicly available. 35 of them are selected for your exam. If you study and take practice tests, there will not be any questions on the exam you haven't seen already.

How do I know I'm ready for the exam?

There are practice exams available online, which use real questions from the actual exam. Start taking practice tests early on in your studies, and keep taking them. When you are consistently scoring 90% or higher, you are ready to take the exam. You only need 74% (26 out of 35) correct to pass and earn your license!

For taking practice exams, we recommend the websites/apps below, but you are welcome to use any site or app you prefer. We also recommend using the option to practice on specific sections, so you are not frustrated by covering areas that you have not studied yet. Each of the three systems below offers that option.

Websites:

Hamexam.org. You will need to create a free account.

The ARRL Practice Exam Website. You will need to create a free account.

Android apps:

Free app: [Ham Test Prep](#)

Paid app: [Hamstudy Android App](#)

iPhone apps:

Free app: [Ham Radio Exam – Tech](#)

Paid app: [Hamstudy iPhone App](#)

Where else can I find information about ham radio?

We also have several “Elmer’s” or volunteers who enjoy working with new hams to help you through your first steps and get you on the air.

Let us know if you have any questions. We love to talk about this stuff!

Find this document on our website: <https://www.fsaarc.org/so-you-want-to-be-a-ham>, and click on the link or follow this QR code on your smartphone.

