

Also available are commercial mock test prepping websites/apps that will prepare you for your exam. Two of the more popular ones are <https://app.aa9pw.com>, and <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com>. With these websites, you can customize the test questions to suit your areas of weakness.

How do I find a test site to take the exam?

In Alachua County, the Gainesville ARRL's VE team normally will host ham radio license exams. This is done on the 1st Saturday of even numbered months, at 1:00 PM. Your exam will be graded immediately upon completion and you will be informed of your results before you leave.

You can also go to ARRL's website for information to locate an exam center near you, or to test online.

Our testing site is located at 1445 NE 148th Ave, Waldo Road, Fl. 32694.

Contact for more exam information:
Allan West, WA4JD@arrl.net,
352-328-2359 cell

What do I need to bring to the exam session?

1. **Mandatory before the exam:** FCC Registration Number (FRN). You are required as an examinee, by the FCC, to submit your FRN with your license application form. For instructions on how to obtain your FRN, go to <https://www.apps.fcc.gov>, and use the Commission Registration System (CORES). You will need to create an account, register your SSN, and receive your FRN from the FCC, before the day of testing. Other instructions are on the fcc.gov website, titled "New Users Guide to Getting Started with Universal Licensing System" (ULS).
2. One legal photo ID (for identification)
3. If no photo ID is available, two other forms of identification, such as birth certificate, Social security card, school ID card, etc.
4. For advanced licenses, a printed copy of your Amateur Radio license.
5. \$15 in check, cash or money order to cover the exam session fees.
6. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. Any other similar electronic devices (smart phones, iPhones etc) with a calculator may not be used.
7. (2) #2 pencils with an eraser, and a pen.

GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (GARS)

AN ARRL-AFFILIATED CLUB

Contact info:
president@gars.club



Amateur Ham Radio

Obtaining Your License



**Before you get on the air,
you need to be licensed
and know the rules in
order to operate legally.
We are here to help explain
the process of getting
licensed for ham radio...**

What is ham radio? Also known as amateur radio, it is a popular hobby and service that combines together communications, electronics and people .

What is the appeal of ham radio? It can be used to talk to friends across town, around the world, or even into space, without the use of cell phones or internet. It is social, engaging and a beneficial lifeline in times of disaster. Ham stations can also be set up anywhere! Take it with you in a park, car, boat, field or club station.

Why do I need a license? This service was created by the FCC in order to have a group of experts who could provide backup support in the time of an emergency. Also, this hobby can advance the communication and technical skills of radio and extend goodwill to others internationally. Many lives have been saved when skilled hobbyists act as emergency communicators to render assistance, whether it involves a hurricane in Florida or an earthquake in Italy.

You will need your license because it is also necessary to learn how to operate legally and to know the laws in the US as well as internationally.

How do I get my radio license? The entry level is the Technician class license. To earn this license, you will need to pass one exam totaling 35 questions, on regulations, operating practices, and radio theory. This

license will give you access to communicate locally and mostly within North America. You will have limited privileges on the HF (“shortwave”) bands for international communications.

Do I have to learn Morse code? Although many hams like to operate using Morse code, it is no longer a requirement.

What does a license cost? Basic study materials for passing the FCC test and attaining your first license usually will cost less than \$40. The online FCC application fee, once you pass your test, is \$35. If you are younger than 18 years old, the ARRL (National Association for Amateur Radio) has a youth licensing grant program. For more information, go to <https://www.arrl.org>.

What are the benefits of getting more licensed? The benefits of more training and licensure is that you will receive more operating privileges on the Amateur Radio bands. The next licensing step after Technician is to attain your General class license. It will open the door to world-wide communications. You will need to pass a 35 question exam to receive your General license. The final step is your Amateur Extra License, which will convey all available US operating privileges and all operating modes. Earning this license is more difficult. In order to meet the qualifications for

your Amateur Extra exam, you must pass a thorough 50 question examination.

How long is my license good for? It is good for 10 years before needing to be renewed, and anyone may hold one unless you are a foreign government representative.

Where can I find help to prepare for the exam? There are many available resources that will help you in your training, whether it is through in-person, online courses, or textbooks. The National Association for Amateur Radio’s website, <https://www.arrl.org> is a good place to start. Just click on the tab “Licensing, Education & Training” to get going. You can also order from their bookstore to purchase the most popular ham radio study guides, complete with test questions and answers.

