

Tongue Point Job Corps Center

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The Seamanship Training Program at Tongue Point is a part of the Department of Labor Job Corp system authorized by Congress under the Manpower Training act. This program was initially established in 1980 and was USCG approved for *Lifeboatman* training in 1983 and as a school ship program for *AB & QMED* endorsements in 1991. The program is designed to provide an in depth training experience for a limited number of students, immersing them in a maritime working environment for a minimum of eighteen months. The curriculum was approved in a manner that allows students to complete either the *AB* or *QMED* program individually, or to select a course of study that qualifies them for a dual *AB/QMED* endorsement upon successful completion.

The course hours stipulated in this approval refer to *Able Seaman* specific coursework and total 712 hours minimum training. In addition, students are required to complete approved programs in *Proficiency in Survival Craft, Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch, Basic Safety* and *Social Skills* that total an additional 422 hours. After completion of this portion of the program, students will continue in the program, still participating eight hours a day, five days a week, either studying *QMED* curriculum or working to refine the skill set learned in *Able Seaman* training for the rest of their time in the program. No student will be graduated from the program until completing a minimum of eighteen months on the training vessel/program.

The curriculum for this program was created to place students in a controlled shipboard-working environment on a daily basis. To do this, the vast majority of classes and training are conducted as working sessions on the deck or in the machinery spaces of our training vessels.

This gives the student the type of learning environment normally found only by actually going to sea, while still having full time instructors guiding them through the process as they learn. The program allows the students extensive opportunities to participate in hands on activities, not just for a few hours at some point during a relatively brief class, but as a daily activity under varying conditions. Working in this format provides the student with the experience of working under realistic conditions, solving problems as they occur as opposed to a predetermined set of classroom exercises. This is something conventional short-term courses are unable to provide. Each study block has a set of learning objectives and students are assigned projects based on the desired outcomes of the particular block. Documentation of curriculum is difficult compared to a conventional class in that a typical class assignment will vary in detail depending on the tasks needing to be done on a particular day. All courses taught in this program are outcome based and the student is not allowed to advance until demonstrating the stipulated level of competency in each block.

