

Getting a Technician Class Ham Radio License for Trail Running and Emergency Communications

By starting your self study on the last Saturday of the month using the procedure below, you can take the exam on the 2nd Saturday of the following month, and be on the air with your own ham radio call letters by the 3rd Saturday.

Why:

- **Emergency Resource:** Ham radio is a vital emergency communications resource recognized by LA County.
- **Reliability:** Functions when cell, internet and AC power systems fail during disasters like wildfires, high wind events or earthquakes and there is the need for local communications as well as communicating far outside the blackout area. Also works well in the mountains for training and running trail races.
- **Flexibility:** Many hundreds of channels available, mountain top repeaters, up to 1500 Watts of power compared to FRS with it's 22 channels and 2 Watts of power. Over 700,000 hams in the USA one of which could relay your welfare status to your outside of the area emergency contact or relatives.
- **Modern Tech:** Supports digital systems like Winlink for independent internet messaging, Low cost (<\$100) robust multi-band handheld radios with over 100 programable memory channels.

Study The "Right Answers Only" Method:

- Plan on starting your self-study with flash cards 10-14 days before your intended test date.
- The "right answers only" method does not require a person with an electronics or technical back ground to pass the test.
- Sign-up free with HamStudy - <https://hamstudy.org/tech2022> - for the on-line flash cards.
- Click on Technician (2022-2026), then Study Mode.
There are 10 sections of all right answers only, start with T2, go through to T10, then T1 last.
- Read *aloud* by yourself or in a group, 1-2 sections per day.
- Yes, reading aloud makes a big difference in your short-term memory's ability to recall that you have seen this answer before when taking the test.
Do not take the on-line practice tests until you have gone through all T1-T10 sections at least once.
- Keep reading aloud and taking the practice tests until you consistently get better than 85%.

- Take one last read through and practice test by yourself or group Hamcram the night before or morning of the test - allow about 4 hours.

Register with the FCC:

- Do this before taking the actual test.
- Obtain a FCC Registration Number by registering at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>
- Create an account using your primary email as it will be used for all official correspondence.
- Name and address should be the same as on your Real ID or Passport.

Where:

- When ready to commit, one week before the test date, register to take the exam on the 2nd Saturday, 11:15am, Huntington Hospital, 100 W. California, Pasadena CA - Go to: <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/laxne> to register.
- Bring \$15 in cash for the exam, photo ID, two #2 pencils with eraser, a pen, calculator and your FRN number - See <https://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>
- After you pass the exam, you will pay a \$35 fee to the FCC - The FCC will email instructions to the address you registered (CORES/FRN). You will have 10 days to make the payment and the call letters will not be issued until they receive it.
- Tests are graded immediately and expect your ham call letters about a week later.

Test Tips:

- There are 35 questions on the test and it takes 26 to pass - you have studied all 413 of the right answers in the FCC Technician class question pool during self-study - you can do this!
- Average pass rate is over 90% the first time if you followed the process above. But if you missed a few more than 9 questions, you can retake the test as many times as you want but each has an additional \$15 fee. Each test will have different and randomly selected questions.
- Your first answer is probably right, best not to second guess or doubt.
- Answer every question even if you don't recognize or are unsure of the answer.
- For more information see: <https://www.laxnortheast.org/licensing>
- When you pass your Tech license exam, you may be asked if you want to try taking the General class license exam at no additional charge. It is another 35 questions - [General Question Pool](#). You can take the [General Class practice exams](#) for free.