Recommended Study Resources

Free Resources

HamStudy.org [https://hamstudy.org]

- Excellent practice exams
- Flashcards
- Tracks weak areas automatically

Video Courses for Studying

Ham Radio Technician Prep Intro (2022-2026)
How To Study and Pass Your Ham Radio Exam
Dave Casler Technician License Series T01

Paid Resources

ARRL License Manuals
https://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual/

- Most comprehensive
- Some copies available at Lewis and Clark Public Library
- Traditional textbook approach

Gordon West Study Guides https://www.gordonwestradioschool.com/

- Conversational style
- Strong memory aids
- Good for nervous test takers

General Class Curriculum

General Course Overview

General Course Goals

Students should:

- Pass the General license exam
- Understand HF operation confidently
- Learn propagation and operating strategy
- Understand portable HF setup concepts
- Learn digital HF modes
- Become comfortable participating in nets and DX contacts

General Session 1

Transition to HF and General Privileges

Learning Objectives

- Understand new HF privileges
- Understand HF operating culture
- Learn HF band characteristics
- Learn propagation basics

Topics Covered

- General privileges
- HF allocations
- Band plans
- HF etiquette
- Contest awareness
- Solar cycle overview

Hands-On Activities

1. Live HF contact demonstration
2. Waterfall interpretation

3. Band comparison listening exercise

Equipment Needed

- HF station
- External antenna
- SDR display

General Session 2

Propagation, Antennas, and Feedlines

Learning Objectives

- Understand ionospheric propagation
- Understand antenna tradeoffs
- Learn portable antenna strategies

Topics Covered

- NVIS
- Skip
- Grayline propagation
- Dipoles
- EFHW antennas
- Portable HF setups

Hands-On Activities

1. Portable HF deployment
2. NanoVNA demonstration
3. Antenna tuner demonstration

General Session 3

HF Operating and Digital Modes

Learning Objectives

- Learn SSB operation
- Learn DXing basics
- Understand FT8 and Winlink
- Understand contest etiquette

Hands-On Activities

1. Simulated DX pileup
2. FT8 contact demo
3. Winlink demo

General Session 4

Electronics, Safety, and Troubleshooting

Learning Objectives

- Understand RF troubleshooting
- Learn grounding and safety
- Understand filters and interference

Hands-On Activities

1. RF interference demo
2. Common-mode choke examples
3. Feedline troubleshooting

General Session 5

Portable, Emergency, and Outdoor HF

Learning Objectives

- Learn POTA/SOTA setup concepts
- Understand portable power
- Understand field deployment

Hands-On Activities

1. Portable mast deployment
2. Battery sizing demo
3. Logging software demo

General Session 6

Review and Advanced Operating Pathways

Topics Covered

- Practice exam review
- Weak area remediation
- DXCC
- Satellite overview
- Contesting
- CW encouragement
- Path to Extra

Hands-On Activities

1. Mock exam
2. Portable go-kit inspection
3. Logging software walkthrough

General Session 7

VE Testing and Club Integration

Same structure as Technician exam session.

Encourage:

- HF net participation
- POTA outings
- Field Day leadership roles
- Mentoring Technician students