

TraCen Cape May Education Update #334

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Congratulations!!

The following personnel in the Cape May area passed Coast Guard Institute end-of-course, AQEs, and other tests since the last update:

Name	Work Site	Test
FN Miranda Brudzinski	TraCen (Firehouse)	E-PME-4 (first attempt)

And congratulations to BM1 Dayna Schock, at Station Cape May! After long and diligent work, she just earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (with a concentration in Finance) from Thomas Edison State College!

Well done, both of you!

And if you've just finished a degree program or have any other noteworthy academic achievement to brag about, please let me know so I can recognize you for it.

Question of the Week

- Q:** I've got 12 years in the Coast Guard and am planning to transfer my Post-9/11 GI Bill to my dependents. Should I do it now or wait until I'm about ready to retire?
- A:** When transferring new (Post-9/11) GI Bill benefits to dependents you need to know you may have to agree to serve a specific amount of time.

First, you have to have served for at least six years in the Coast Guard (regular, Reserve, or a combination of the two) before you can transfer your benefits to either your spouse or a dependent child. (Your spouse can use the transferred benefit immediately after the transfer has been approved. Dependent children must wait four years after

the benefit transfer to begin using it **and** must either be at least 18 years old or have completed the requirements for a secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate.)

Second, those who will become eligible for retirement on and after 01 August 2012 (which you will) have to agree to serve four years of service after the date they transfer all or some of their benefits to dependents.

This means that the longer you wait to transfer your benefit, the longer you may have to stay in the Coast Guard past your intended retirement date. Conversely, the earlier you transfer your benefit to dependents, the less likely it will be that the benefit transfer will affect your retirement plans.

You can always modify the distribution of transferred benefits. That is, if you transfer all your benefits to your spouse and/or children today, then later decide (whether before or after you leave the Coast Guard) to change the number of months allocated to each dependent, you can do that – and it won't affect your retirement date. However, if you wait to transfer your benefit until you're within four years of becoming eligible to retire, you may find you have to defer your retirement date (if you planned to leave after 20 years of service) to satisfy this service requirement.

The bottom line is: PLAN AHEAD!!!!

If you have a question you'd like answered as a Question of the Week, e-mail it to me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

Web Page in the Spotlight

There's a lot of stuff on the TraCen Cape May web site you might not check out if you didn't know it was there. So this week, I'm spotlighting ***Why Should I Get More Education?*** (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/whymore01.asp>).

Grammar & Usage Corner

This feature will touch on grammar and usage questions as well as confused/misused words. This week, we'll look at *try and* vs. *try to*. (This explanation below is derived from *The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need: A One-Stop Source for Every Writing Assignment* by Susan Thurman and from <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-comments.aspx>.)

Try and implies that the speaker is describing two separate actions, one of which is "trying", as in "I'll try and call her tomorrow" where trying is one action and calling is a second.

Try to, rather than describing two separate actions, describes two actions that are linked: "I'll try to call her tomorrow", where trying is linked to calling.

An example of what many consider correct usage is "The salesperson said she would try to get the coat in my size; I hoped she would try and keep looking." The salesperson is doing one thing: trying to get the coat. I, however, am doing two separate things: hoping that the salesperson will try to get the coat *and* hoping the salesperson will keep looking for one.

Although this may have once been (and might still be) the convention, a wise retired English teacher makes this observation on his blog (<http://verbmall.blogspot.com/2006/10/try-to-vs-try-and.html>):

Remember that grammar rules are arbitrary; they are not based on something inherent in the language, something that can never change. They are based on custom or style, realities that can and will change over long periods of time.

Think of grammar rules as temporary conventions that may work for a few generations, sometimes longer. The only reason they are useful is to ensure that we are all on the same page. When the page turns and new rules evolve, there is no problem, no violation of something sacred, as long as we still understand each other. Understanding is the point; grammatical conventions are merely a tool.

If there are any word usage, grammar, or similar issues you've encountered, please e-mail them to me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

Five Days to Go

The deadline for the Coast Guard Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Associations (CWOA) scholarship program is next Wednesday, 01 June 2011. The Art and Eleanor Colona Scholarship Grant (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST137-11.pdf>) is open to children of: regular Coast Guard personnel, Reservists on active duty, and retirees. The \$4,000 scholarship will be paid in four installments of \$1,000 per year.

New MK EPQs

ALCOAST 239/11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST239-11.pdf>) announced that a new set of EPQs for MKs has been published and is available via the CG Portal (<http://elearning.uscg.mil>) by following this path: Training & Education > Learning Management System > Enlisted Advancement > Hull and Engineering Group. Click on any of MK links and download the "MK Enlisted Performance Qualifications (02/11)".

As noted in the ALCOAST, "All MK personnel are encouraged to begin using the new EPQ form . . . as soon as practical because it accurately reflects current occupational requirements." This means that new EOCT and the May 2012 SWE will be based on the new EPQs.

New Deck Watch Officer Exam COMDTINST

COMDTINST 16672.5C (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/COMDTINST16672.5C.pdf>) was recently published, finalizing the DWO exam completion requirements for BM advancement and coxswain certification. Here are the most significant changes:

- The Coast Guard Institute's "Rules of the Road" course and related EOCTs are no longer authorized for BM advancement or coxswain certification (para. 5.c).
- Prospective afloat COs, OICs, XOs, and XPOs must pass the appropriate test (DWINTO/DWINTR) before executing their orders. (para. 6.a.(1))
- Prospective afloat OPS officers and petty officers (i.e., those being assigned to PAL-designated OPS billets) must pass the appropriate test (DWINTO/DWINTR) before executing their orders. (para. 6.a.(2))
- Those designated by their commands as underway OODs and PAL-designated Deck Watch Officers must pass the appropriate test (DWINTO/DWINTR) before they can perform underway OOD duties. If they don't pass the exam within 6 months (vs. 9 months in the previous version) after reporting, that fact will be noted in a Page 7 and the person will be transferred during the next assignment season. (para. 6.a.(3))
- To advance, BMs must remain current with respect to the DWINTO/DWINTR test. BMs who don't meet this requirement can't advance or be put on a supplemental or striker eligibility list. (para. 6.a.(4))
- All prospective coxswains (regardless of rate) must pass the appropriate test (DWINTO/DWINTR) before they can be certified as a coxswain. Coxswains who last passed a DWINTO/DWINTR test more than 5 years earlier will lose their certification until they pass the appropriate test. (para. 6.a.(5))
- A new sample list of DWO test questions and answers is available at http://uscg.mil/nmc/training/2010q3_sample_deck_questions.pdf.

Reserve Servicewide Exams

ALCGRSV 024/11 was published earlier this week laying out the guidelines for the Reserve servicewide exams this year. The exams will be administered on Saturday morning, 15 October 2011. For details (including what is required of all examinees), see the ALCOAST (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCGRSV024-11.pdf>).

If you meet all the qualifications for advancement by 01 July 2011, PSC will automatically send a SWE for you to the ESO at the examination board listed on your Personal Data Extract (PDE). **Your ESO has nothing to do with PDEs and you cannot request a SWE.**

When your PDE is made available on DirectAccess (by the middle of July), make sure you check **everything** on it carefully – including your examination board name and OPFAC.

- Are you going to be on leave or TAD on the date of your SWE?
- Will you be in-transit due to a PCS move on the date of your SWE?
- Are you going to be away from the unit on the date of your SWE for any other reason?

If so (and if you want to take the SWE), do the following:

- find a unit you know you'll be geographically near on your SWE date,
- contact the ESO at that unit and ask if it's OK to take your SWE there,
- assuming the ESO says "yes", ask for the unit's OPFAC,
- notify PPC (e-mail address: PPC-DG-ADV) of the name and OPFAC of that unit so the info on your PDE is changed.

PPC will automatically send your exam to the unit list as your exam board on your PDE.

Substitute exams are authorized ONLY in emergencies. Regular leave (even if you scheduled a Caribbean cruise six months ago) is not an emergency. A wedding – even your own – is not an emergency. For more information on just what circumstances justify requesting a substitute exam, see Article 5.D.3. of the *Personnel Manual*.

If you change the Exam Board on your PDE and later find out you won't be able to take your SWE at that location, let your ESO know immediately.

For info on studying and test-taking skills, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studying.asp>.

Update on Student Loan Forgiveness for Public Service

(thanks to SueAnn Walter, ESO at the Coast Guard Academy, for bringing this to my attention)

Starting within the next few years, you may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on your eligible federal student loans after you have made 120 payments on loans under certain repayment plans while employed full time by certain public service employers. Only non-defaulted loans made under the William D. Ford Direct Loan ProgramSM are eligible for loan forgiveness. The Direct Loan Program includes (but is not limited to) the following types of loans:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans)
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans)
- Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Direct PLUS Loans, for parents and graduate or professional students)
- Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans)

"Public service", for purposes of this program, includes employment by any federal, state, local, or tribal government entity (including the military, public schools and colleges, public child and family services agencies, and special governmental districts).

According to LTJG Thomas Garcia, who contacted the Department of Education, "[T]here is no application process at this time. The program will not start until 2018, so they are still figuring out the mechanics. I was told [to] expect an application sometime after 2012." For more information about this program, go to the Department of Education's web site at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PSF.jsp>.

Future Economic Value of Specific College Majors

(thanks to Brion Newman, ESO at Base Seattle for bringing this to my attention)

For years, policy-makers and educators have been telling young people why additional education after high school is a good idea. Statistics from the New Jersey Council of County Colleges show that

- Graduates of associate's degree programs will earn nearly \$400,000 (in today's dollars) or 37% more over their lifetimes than people who have only a high school diploma or GED.
- Individuals with a one-year community college certificate earn as much as 16% more than people who have only a high school diploma or GED.
- For every \$1 a person spends on community college education, his/her lifetime earnings will increase by almost \$8.
- Individuals who take community college courses recover all costs – including earnings forgone while attending school – within six years.

For more on this subject, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/whymore01.asp>

Now, researchers at Georgetown University have just published a report showing the future economic value of specific college majors within bachelor's degree programs. Quoting the press release announcing this report, "some undergraduate majors pay off a lot more than others. In fact, the difference in earnings potential between one major and another can be more than 300 percent."

Before going any farther, please be aware that your decision to pursue a specific major should take into account many factors in addition to future earning potential. To quote Meaghan Donchak – a 22-year-old junior at Drexel University from East Windsor, NJ – "The most important thing is not the money. It's really hard to convince people of that, especially people our age. It's doing what you love to do. You don't want to wake up every day dreading going to work."

To read the full report, go to <http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/>. For a graphic representation of some of the report's findings, go to <http://chronicle.com/article/Median-Earnings-by-Major-and/127604/>.

30 Fastest-Growing Civilian Jobs in Next Decade

From the U.S. Department of Labor here's a list of the 30 jobs expected to offer the greatest number of openings in the next ten years, along with the type of training/education you'll need to get them.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bio-medical engineers — bachelor's degree | 16. Medical Assistants — OJT |
| 2. Network Systems and data communications analysts — bachelor's degree | 17. Physical therapist assistants — associate's degree |
| 3. Home health aides — on-the-job training (OJT) | 18. Veterinarians — first professional degree |
| 4. Personal and home care aides — OJT | 19. Self-enrichment education teachers — work experience in a related field |
| 5. Financial examiners — bachelor's degree | 20. Compliance officers — OJT |
| 6. Medical scientists (except epidemiologists) — doctoral degree | 21. Occupational therapist aides — OJT |
| 7. Physician Assistants — master's degree | 22. Environmental engineers — bachelor's degree |
| 8. Skin Care Specialists — postsecondary vocational award | 23. Pharmacy technicians — OJT |
| 9. Biochemists and biophysicists — doctoral degree | 24. Computer software engineers, systems software — bachelor's degree |
| 10. Athletic Trainers — bachelor's degree | 25. Survey researchers — bachelor's degree |
| 11. Physical therapist aides — OJT | 26. Physical therapists — master's degree |
| 12. Dental hygienists — associate's degree | 27. Personal Financial Advisors — bachelor's degree |
| 13. Veterinary technologists and technicians — associate's degree | 28. Environmental engineering technicians — associate's degree |
| 14. Dental assistants — OJT | 29. Occupational therapist assistants — associate's degree |
| 15. Computer software engineers, applications — bachelor's degree | 30. Fitness trainer and aerobics instructors — postsecondary vocational award |

Do I Need a Degree to Get the Job I Want?

Despite the information presented in the previous two items, many Coast Guard personnel are more interested in working with their hands (for example, carpentry, gunsmithing, plumbing, locksmithing, electrical work) than they are in sitting in

class for five hours a day to get a degree. Still, everyone tells them they need to get a degree to succeed in the civilian labor market so they feel they have to do so.

But before you jump into a degree program, think about your ultimate employment goal and work backwards from it. When planning a car trip, you don't just start driving and hope to end up somewhere you wanted to go. You have a destination in mind and figure out the best route to get there. This should be the way you also plan your career, both in the Coast Guard and in the civilian world.

Let's say you want to work as a video game designer. Assuming you want to work for a company that does nothing but design and market video games, call a half dozen of them and talk with someone who makes hiring decisions in the HR department or the like. Ask what kind of training and/or education they're looking for in new hires. Ask specifically if the people they hire need a degree, a certificate of some kind, or if demonstrated ability (e.g., via a portfolio or other samples of your work) is good enough.

Remember: a college degree requires you to take many courses totally unrelated to your field of interest. Roughly **a third to half the courses you take to earn a degree fall into this category**. If you're more interested in acquiring the knowledge necessary to start working in the field that interests you, a degree may not be for you.

There are a number of paths you can take once you know whether most likely employers require a degree. You can

- work with someone who has the knowledge you want to acquire (a mentor-protégé or apprenticeship relationship, formal or informal);
- learn it on your own via resources available for free (often on the Internet, see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp#knowledge>);
- take college courses just in your area of interest and, perhaps, earn an academic certificate in the process (see "Academic Certificates" at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/degreedesc.asp#certs>); or
- take non-credit courses that you have to pay for, for example Excelsior College's Professional Development courses (<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/center-for-professional-development>) or the Graduate School's courses (<http://graduateschool.edu/>), which GI Bill education benefits will likely cover.

The point is, determine whether a degree is something you need or want. If you don't need a degree, but you want one and/or what you learn will be useful, by all means work toward one. But don't jump into a degree program just because everyone else is doing so.

B.S. Degrees in High-Tech Fields

If you're in Delaware or the Philadelphia area and are interested in any of the following fields, Wilmington University may have what you're looking for.

- Computer and Network Security
- Game Design and Development
- Information Systems Management
- Media Design
- Studio Production
- Web Information Systems

For more information, go to the school's web site at <http://www.wilmu.edu/technology/>. And if you're specifically interested in game design and development, check out the video promo at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ictf2nxy8H8&feature=email>.

Spouse Education Grant Application Deadline Extended

Until 24 June 2011, the Coast Guard Foundation will accept applications for a needs-based education grant for spouses of Coast Guard enlisted personnel. The grant (\$500) is intended to help the spouses of personnel on active duty (E-3 through E-6) in the regular Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve.

Applicants need only show enrollment in an education program or proof of a course completion. Types of courses for which reimbursement is available include those offered by vocational and certification programs, as well as those offered at colleges and universities. Download the application form: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/CGI1570.pdf>

Applicants will not need to provide receipts for expenses, but they will need to itemize expenses. They will also need to list some basic financial information. Transportation and child care expenses can be listed as legitimate expenses for the grant. Also part of the application process is an essay (no longer than 500 words) which addresses what it means to the applicant to be a Coast Guard spouse and describing the difference education has made to the applicant's life and the lives of the applicant's family members. **There will be an open application period from 1 April until 24 June.**

In June, a selection committee will convene to select grantees. The Coast Guard Institute expects as many as 50 spouses will receive assistance. This grant will be a somewhat different from the other grants administered by the Coast Guard Institute in that the Institute will handle the paperwork and selection processes while the Coast Guard Foundation will actually write the checks.

Scholarships Don't Have to be Big to Help

- The Wildwood chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is offering a \$500 scholarship for seniors at Wildwood High School or Wildwood Catholic High School.

For more information, contact Mr. John Burgin (TraCen Cape May Facilities Engineering) at 609-898-6948 or 609-536-2754.

- Also, the director of the Tillman Foundation is hoping more eligible Guardians will apply for the Tillman Military Scholarship program this year than in the past. So far, no Guardians have been chosen to receive one of these scholarships. **Applications for the 2011-2012 academic year open on 07 March 2011.** Check out the foundation's web site for eligibility criteria and other application information: <http://www.pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply/>.

FS3 and SK3 Courses

If you'd like an FS3 or SK3 course, the Education Center has one extra of each. Stop by to pick it up.

New Education Reference Materials

TraCen Cape May's Education Center just received the latest version of the CollegeBoard's *College Handbook*. It includes detailed information about every accredited institution of higher learning in the U.S. That's more than 2,100 4-year and more than 1,700 2-year colleges, universities, community colleges, and technical schools.

Also be aware that the Education Center has many more publications, many of which you're free to take. Those marked with an asterisk on the following list are yours for the asking.

- *College.edu**
- *Online Learning**
- *Bear's Guide to the Best Education Degrees by Distance Learning*
- *Bear's Guide to Earning Degrees by Distance Learning*
- *Guide to Distance Learning*
- *College Majors that Work: A Step-by-Step Guide to Choosing and Using Your College Major**
- *Quick Guide to College Majors and Careers**
- *10 Best College Majors for Your Personality*
- *Book of Majors*
- *Four-Year Colleges*
- *Two-Year Colleges*
- *Handbook of Historically Black Colleges & Universities*
- *Uniformed Services Almanac**
- *Don't Miss Out: The Ambitious Student's Guide to Financial Aid*
- *Loans and Grants From Uncle Sam Am I Eligible and for How Much?**
- *Scholarship Scouting Report*
- *How to Go to College Almost for Free*
- *Get Free Cash for College*
- *Scholarship Handbook*
- *Scholarships, Grants & Prizes*
- *Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Their Families*

- *Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants, and Loans*
- *Best Career and Education Web Sites: A Quick Guide to Online Job Search**
- *College Success Guide**
- *2011 Guide to Military Friendly Schools**
- *DANTES College Career Workbook**

Advanced Education Opportunity for FSs

If you're an FS1 through FSCS, you may be eligible for the Coast Guard's new 24-month Food Service/Culinary Arts program leading an associate's or bachelor's degree in food service management or culinary arts. For more information, see ALCOAST 190-11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST190-11.pdf>). **The application deadline is 19 July.**

01 July: Education Assessment Required of First-time TA Users

From the CO of the Coast Guard Institute: "In an effort to extend tuition assistance funding, assessments of training records will become mandatory for all members seeking Coast Guard tuition assistance for the first time at the undergraduate level 1 July. Additionally, beginning 1 July 2011 all members seeking Coast Guard tuition assistance at the undergraduate (associate's and bachelor's) level will be required to have a current assessment no older than four years before receiving Coast Guard tuition assistance. It is very much encouraged for members to submit their assessment requests as soon as possible to avoid any delay in receiving tuition assistance."

Updated Online Academic Skills Course

Eight lessons in Peterson's Online Academic Skills Course (OASC), and the quizzes associated with them, have been recently updated. In addition, tips and strategies for taking timed standardized tests have also been added. Finally, the number of math flashcard decks has been increased from seven to ten, and are now labeled based on their content so you can find the deck that will be most helpful to you. To make finding these easier, the label on the "Resources" tab has been changed to "Flashcards & Resources".

You can find the OASC at <http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/>. And if you're interested in more resources to help prepare for college tests, CLEP tests, DSSTs, ASVAB retests, etc., go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studymaterials.asp>.

Civilian Career Myths

Excelsior College's alumni magazine often includes articles of use to military personnel about to enter or re-enter the civilian work force. The latest issue has an article entitled "Fact or Fiction: The Truth About Career Myths" (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/careermyths.pdf>). You can also read "Skills Employers Seek" (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/skills.pdf>) and the Fall/Winter 2008 issue.

Check 'em out!

How to Go to College Almost for Free

Whether you'd like more money for your own education (even if you're using TA or receiving GI Bill benefits) or for a dependent, you should check out <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/scholarships.asp#strategy>. You'll see that finding money for college *is* possible using a logical, linear (and not all that daunting) methodology devised by Ben Kaplan.

Also, the Education Center recently acquired Mr. Kaplan's video, "Finding College Cash in Tough Times" (<http://www.cityofcollegedreams.org/store/finding-college-cash-in-tough-times>). After a short introduction it covers the following topics:

Part I: Exploding 3 Myths about Paying for College
 Part II: 3 Strategies for Maximizing Need-based Financial Aid
 Part III: 3 Steps for Finding Merit Scholarships
 Part IV: 3 Components of a Winning Scholarship Game Plan
 Part V: 3 Strategies for Making Your Application Shine
 Part VI: Concluding Thoughts & Final Quiz

Although I can't lend out the video, you can watch it in the Education Center. Please contact me (andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil) if you're interested in seeing it. The total running time is 71 minutes. If there's enough interest to warrant it, we'll show it in the auditorium; otherwise, in the Education Center.

Reserve Resource Guide

In addition to the web site of the Coast Guard Office of Reserve Affairs (<http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/>), Reservists should also check out TraCen Petaluma's Reserve Resource Guide (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/tracenpetaluma/RRG/>). Together, these provide info on and links to info on every facet of Coast Guard affairs related to service in the Reserve.

TraCen Cape May Testing Calendar

Tests at TraCen Cape May are administered by appointment according to the following schedule:

Mondays (0800): Defense Language Proficiency Tests
 Tuesdays (0800): EOCTs and AQEs*
 Thursdays (0745): college tests, CLEP tests, DSSTs, SATs, ACTs

* If operations or your work schedule make it impossible for you to take an EOCT or AQE on a Tuesday morning, you can take it on a Thursday morning.

This schedule leaves most of the day on Tuesdays, as well as all day on Wednesdays, Fridays available for other occasional tests, counseling, and other face-to-face interactions with you. When no one is taking a language test, the doors to the Education Center are open on Mondays, as well.

If you call and I don't answer the phone, I'm usually administering a test (and, because of the noise, can't talk on the phone) or otherwise busy with someone in the office. E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

Leaving the Coast Guard?

If you're leaving the Coast Guard within the next twelve months (whether through retirement, resignation, or expiration of your enlistment), you should be making plans for what you'll be doing after you take off your uniform for the last time. Check out the information on my web site related to career transition (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/careertrans.asp>).

Also, stop by the Education Center to check out the (small) supply of booklets related to rejoining the civilian work force. Here are the topics of the booklets:

- Jobs With a Future
- How to Develop Job Resources
- The Resume
- The Cover Letter: A Resume Should Never Stand Alone
- The Mature Resume: The Resume with Experience
- The Follow-up Letter
- The Interview
- How to Choose a Career: A Guide to Self-Assessment
- Civilian Again
- Leaving the Service ... and Beginning Your Next Career

- Military to Civilian: Your Resume and Job Hunt
- Effective Goal Setting: How to Reach the Goals You Set for Yourself

You should also request an education assessment from the Coast Guard Institute (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/collegefaq.asp>) to get a transcript of college credit you've acquired through your service in the Coast Guard. This is a two-step process: request an assessment, request an official copy of the resulting transcript be sent to one or more colleges of your choice. ***If you don't request an assessment before you leave active duty, you can't get one (or a transcript) later.***

If you're not planning to go to school right away, you'll probably need to find work. Here are two excellent resources for finding a job – or even a second career. Also, Military.com has a very good series of web pages devoted to veterans (<http://www.military.com/Careers/Home>).

And don't discount the idea of working in the public sector. Not only are there thousands of jobs in the federal government, identical to private-sector jobs in which you can put your skills, knowledge, and experience to use while maintaining job security unavailable in the private sector (<http://www.fedjobs.gov/>), governmental entities at all levels – state, county, municipality, school district, port district, etc. – provide similar benefits.

ACCC's Library Open for Studying

One more thing: the new campus's classrooms, labs, and library are all state-of-the-art. Even if you're not ready to register for classes right away, you should take the opportunity to visit the campus and look around. The Director of Academic and Student Services has extended a personal invitation to anyone who'd like to use the library to study, for research, or for pleasure reading. It's very quiet, well-lit, and has very comfortable furniture.

Education Center Library

The TraCen Education Center has a binder full of SparkCharts Quick Reference Guides on almost 40 subjects. You're welcome to use these in the Education Center or make copies to take with you. You can check out the subjects available at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/books.asp#spark>.

In addition to SparkCharts, the Education Center also has a library of books on leadership, management, Coast Guard history, and other topics. Also in the library are the latest Professional Qualification Guides (PQGs) and Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) for each rating.

The Education Center also has dozens of brochures and books on college, financial aid, the officer program application process, and other things. If there are multiple copies, you're welcome to take one.