



Great Lakes Maritime Academy Board of Visitors Meeting

04 November 2020

Jerry Achenbach, Superintendent

GLMA BOV Meeting - 04 Nov 2020

There are approximately 200 cadets enrolled in the Academy, many are first generation college students, many are non-traditional, many have very limited financial assets. The total cost to complete the program exceeds \$60,000. Therefore our core mission during the pandemic is:

To give every cadet the ability to graduate as per his/ her model schedule.

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Thank you for joining us. I wish we could meet in person. If COVID allows we will reconvene this spring for a closed door meeting with graduating cadets. It has been such a unique year I will begin by quickly describing what has transpired since we last met, 11 September 2019.

Dec 2019: We celebrated our 50th anniversary. The College wrote a book detailing how the Academy was established. If anyone did not receive a copy and would like one, please email me.

Jan 2020: Tim Nelson retired after serving as the President of Northwestern Michigan College for 19 years. The new College President, Dr. Nick Nessley will join us today.

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Jan 2020 (continued):

License exam:

Engine: 18 tested, one individual stopped testing after failing the first two modules, therefore 121 exam modules were administered. Of these 117, (96%) were passed on the first attempt.

Deck: 17 tested, 119 exam modules were administered. Of these, 91% were passed on the first attempt.

Due to Incidents of cheating on the deck license exam all deck cadets were required to retake one module. Another cadet was caught cheating on a pilotage exam. This was adjudicated by the USCG.

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Jan 2020 (continued):

Cadet concerns regarding the pilotage exams:

Cadets have raised concerns regarding the passing rate for the local knowledge exams. We looked into this and the data showed:

As of 25 Feb 2020 A total of 63 local knowledge exams had been administered. Of these 46 have been passed (73%). There are two cadets that struggled. If you do not include them in the data then 42 exams had been administered and 35 were passed (83%). For comparison to other fields where a professional exam is administered after completion of a bachelor's degree: FAA (76.5%), Nclex (nursing) (87.1%), CPA (less than 10% pass all four modules on their first attempt), FE (67%).

We do believe the cadets have legitimate concerns regarding questions on local knowledge exams that cover waterways that a commercial vessel can not transit. Gretchen will address this later today.

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License exams (continued):

- Due to the impact of the closure of the Toledo REC on cadets who could not sit for license Jan 2020, or had retakes, the USCG returned to GLMA (at no cost) and administered exams in August 2020.
- The USCG will administer license exams in Traverse City the week of 04 Jan 2021. Re-takes and pilotage exams will be the following week. We estimate 55+ cadets will sit for license in Jan 2021.
- The College will not hold a spring break in 2021 due to COVID. This week has traditionally been used by cadets for retakes and pilotage. Ms. Gretchen Hubbard has received permission to return to GLMA in late April to administer exams.

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Feb 2020:

We were able to hold an AB class. We scheduled the requested QMED test prep class. Unfortunately, all students opted to depart after one day when they discovered the class would not exempt them from testing at the USCG. This information was conveyed previously in numerous emails. Cary Godwin will give an update on continuing education later today.

March 2020: Everything changed due to COVID.

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The impact of COVID-19 included:

- The College went to remote/ online classes.
- Almost all commercial berths were cancelled.
- All company/ union visits were cancelled.
- The training ship was unable to get underway until mid July. The *T/S State of Michigan* and the *T/S General Rudder* (Texas Maritime) were the only training ships that sailed in 2020.
- Quarantines and COVID testing were required prior to sailing.
- NMC Commencement and the GLMA Graduation Dinner were cancelled.
- At least one firefighting class was cancelled.
- Pre-Fall was cancelled.

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Temporary measures granted by the USCG to the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023):

- An additional 30 in-port sea days can be applied to the program requirements (note: this was not extended to the classes of 2022 and 2023).
- 1.25:1 sea day credit for cadet time spent on a commercial vessel.
- No more than 20 days of time spent in an appropriate unlicensed capacity can be applied to program requirements.

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Temporary measures granted by the USCG to the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023:

- Ability to earn up to 30 days sea time with the use of our simulator (we are requesting more guidance on this).
- Ability to use Academy owned small vessels and earn cadet sea time.
- Cadets will have 12 months after beginning license exams to complete the program. Pre-COVID it was six months.

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Great Lakes Pilotage as a Graduation Requirement:

- This requirement is in both the Northwestern Michigan College Catalog and the GLMA Rules and Regulations. It requires all deck cadets to earn pilotage for all five lakes and the rivers they are approved to sit for.
- Due to COVID we could not hold cadets to this requirement due to our inability to provide every cadet with ability to earn recency. The requirement for the class of 2020 and 2021 is to earn pilotage for every route they are approved to test for.
- Our goal is to return to the NMC Catalog/ GLMA Rules and Regulations requirement for the class of 2022.

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Sea time, our biggest challenge:

- Thank you for the commercial berths, we greatly appreciate them. These berths will be critical to the cadets' ability to graduate as per their model schedule and earning pilotage.
- If required we will have cadets quarantine, be tested for COVID prior to departing for a commercial sea project.
- When will it be possible to discuss potential number of berths that will be available summer and fall 2021?

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T/S State of Michigan:

- Currently in dry dock.
- We are planning for three phases in 2021; two in the summer and one in the fall. NMC is dedicating one dorm this summer for quarantine purposes.
- We hope to have as many as 50 berths on a different academy training ship. The CDC has recently announced guidance on the cruise industry's *crawl, walk, run* plans. That guidance may be a template for operation of the larger training ships.
- If we can operate the ship for three phases, hold a Pre-Fall in August for cadets that arrived in Aug 2020, and one during the fall semester 2021 for the cadets that will arrive next August we (hopefully) will be caught up.

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Other Items of note:

- Is everyone receiving the monthly GLMA BOV update?
- The lease of the tug *Mississippi* was a great success. We plan on leasing a tow vessel next summer. The long term goal is to have a tow vessel donated or if needed purchase one.
- The partnership with Great Lakes Culinary Institute (GLCI) remains strong.

Questions?

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