

Ham 9 – FCC & VEC, before the Exam

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1. **Obtain an FCC registration number (FRN) from CORES** (COMmission REgistration System).
 - a. The FCC no longer accepts SSN.
 - b. <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>
 - c. Register on the website and receive FRN.
 - d. A valid email is required. Your password must be 12-15 characters, with capital, lower, number & special.
2. Find a Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing location from these Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC).
www.arrl.com or www.w5yi.org
3. I recommend searching locally.
 - a. Evergreen VE team > Contact: Dan B. Belcher, danbelcher1@cox.net.
 - b. Tulsa Amateur Radio Club (TARC) > Testing: <http://w5ias.com/testing/>
 - c. Tulsa Repeater Organization (TRO) > Testing: http://tulsahamradio.org/Area_Testing.htm
 - d. Reach out to your preferred VE group for confirmation of date and time and your intention.
4. What to bring?
 - a. Exam fee is currently \$15, cash only. This goes to ARRL for developing and printing.
 - b. Personal photo ID, such as driver's license, student ID, or tribal enrollment.
 - c. Sharp #2 pencils and fine tip pen, with back-up. The VE may have their own, but yours will be easier.
 - d. Calculator without memory storage, if needed.
 - e. Ham license or CSCE for credit on prior completed element testing.
5. When you arrive.
 - a. Check in at VE table.
 - b. Complete the registration application, NCV-Form 605
 - c. **You will need your FRN, Permanent home address, Permanent email, Daytime phone, Previous license.**
 - d. After you complete the exam, VE sends it with this Form 605 to the VEC to verify all blocks are checked.
 - e. Then the VEC sends the info to the FCC to put in database.
6. Basic Qualifying Question.
 - a. Have you been convicted of a felony?
 - b. If yes, then submit court documents within 14-days of your app being submitted to FCC. You can take the exam.
7. Section 2 of the Form 605 is completed by a VE. This is a government operation, so everything is very tedious.
8. Take the exam!
 - a. One of the VEs will give you one of 4 exam versions and an answer sheet.
 - b. Put your name, date, and exam version on the provided answer sheet.
 - c. There are 35-questions on Technician and General with 50 questions on Extra Class.
 - d. There will be No surprises. The exam is word matched, just like the test pool.
 - e. Take your time. Complete the exam. There is no rush.
 - f. Then check to make sure things match.
 - g. Turn in to VE table.
9. They will check all paper work, again.
 - a. Three VEs will grade the exam to make sure they did it right. Bring snacks, something to wile away 15 minutes.
 - b. After checking your answers, they will smile, congratulate you, and ask if you want to try the General at no fee.
 - c. You will receive a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. Sign it and hold on to it just in case.
 - d. If you miss too many they will ask if you want to try again for an additional fee. It will be different questions.
So, you have a high probability of making it that time.
10. It will take a few days for everything to get through the system.
 - a. FCC will **email** your license info in a few days.
 - b. Then you will go to the FCC website to pay the government fee of \$35.
 - c. Then they will post your license call-sign. This may take up to 10 days.
 - d. Universal Licensing System: <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
11. I assume you bought your first radio, when you passed the exam. Now get on the air. We want to congratulate you.
 - a. Ham 10, *First Radio* guide shows you how to program the radio, what are local frequencies, and how to talk.
12. While you are fresh, begin studying for your next license, the same way. The General is still 35 questions.
 - a. The General is no more difficult, but a little more technical definitions.
13. Relax, enjoy, Life Is Good!

