



**LOUISIANA MARITIME ACADEMY**  
AT NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

**1 in 5**

Louisiana jobs  
tied to the  
maritime industry

**5**

of the nation's  
top ports

**14%**

wage growth  
in the maritime  
economy

# Strengthening Louisiana's Role in America's Maritime Future

*Establishing the Louisiana Maritime Academy (LMA) at Nicholls State University*

## Closing the Maritime Workforce Gap

- Train the next generation of licensed mariners
- Strengthen Louisiana's maritime workforce pipeline
- Support the state's ports, shipping, and offshore energy sectors
- Ensure maritime career opportunities remain accessible to Louisiana students

## The Creation of LMA

The Louisiana Maritime Academy (LMA) will launch in **Fall 2028** at **Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA.**

The Academy will offer a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation and prepare graduates to obtain an Unlimited Tonnage Third Mate Oceans Merchant Mariner Credential with Towing Endorsement.

## Aligned with Federal Maritime Priorities

The Louisiana Maritime Academy directly supports the federal initiative, "**Restoring America's Maritime Dominance,**" and "**America's Maritime Action Plan**" which calls for:

- Expanding recruitment and training of the **U.S. mariners**
- Strengthening retention of **licensed mariners**
- Revitalizing American shipbuilding and **maritime capacity**

## Vision for Growth

- Future programs will offer unlimited tonnage licenses for Third Assistant Engineers Oceans
- Partnerships with Louisiana's technical and community colleges
- Facilities supporting continuing education, recertification, and lifelong learning for working mariners

## LEGISLATIVE INVESTMENT REQUEST

**\$1.1 Million**

**Support for Curriculum Development**  
for Deck and Engineering Programs

**\$5 Million**

Phase II of construction of the **College of Business and School of Marine Transportation Building**  
Project completion: Fall 2028

*This investment will position Louisiana to establish its first state maritime academy and strengthen the state's maritime workforce pipeline.*

## Estimated Timeline

Submit curriculum to the Coast Guard - **December 2026**

Student Recruitment Begins - **Winter 2027/2028**

Start of Classes - **Fall 2028**

LMA is more than a school, it's a **strategic investment** in America's maritime future.