

Marine Engineering Officer

Keep a ship's engines, power and systems running while it is a thousand kilometres from a repair shop.

TYPICAL PAY

\$77,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$56k to \$128k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Ship engine rooms, ferries, tugs,
Great Lakes freighters, offshore v...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 English and math. Georgian College also wants a valid Transport Canada marine medical certificate saying you are fit for sea service before you start.
- 2 Marine engineering programme** 3 to 4 years
 Georgian College in Owen Sound runs a three-year advanced diploma with two mandatory co-op terms. Other schools run three or four-year versions of the same idea.
- 3 Sea time as an engineering cadet** About 7 months, inside the programme
 Paid work terms in a real engine room. The Georgian programme logs about 210 days of sea time inside the diploma.
- 4 Transport Canada certificate of competency** Months of study
 Written and oral exams, starting at fourth class marine engineer. Approved programmes earn you exemptions from some papers.
- 5 Climb the classes** Years at sea
 Fourth, third, second, then first class. Each needs more watchkeeping sea time and more exams.

Pros and cons

- + Good pay with room and board included
- + Long paid time off between rotations
- + Skills that transfer straight to shore jobs
- Hot, noisy, oily and confined work space
- Weeks away from home at a stretch
- Broken sleep and alarm call-outs

Good to know

You are the only repair shop for hundreds of kilometres

A ship at sea cannot order a part or call a technician. The engine department carries spares and tools and is expected to keep the vessel running with what is on board.

Cadets log sea time as part of the diploma

Georgian College's marine engineering advanced diploma builds in two co-op terms totalling about 210 days of sea time, so you graduate with a real logbook and not just a transcript.

Optional boosts

Higher classes of certificate. Tanker and gas endorsements. Refrigeration and electrical tickets. Dynamic positioning and offshore experience.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Marine Engineer Officer, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Transport Canada: Seafarer certification
 Georgian College: Marine Engineering Technology
 Transport Canada: Marine transportation

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/marine-engineering-officer>



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