Pilot Exam, Training Program and Licensure

Pilot Exam

The Washington state pilot exam is offered at least every four years, and more often if projected vessel activity exceeds the expected capacity of projected licensed pilots plus trainees as they complete the licensing process.

In the exam process, applicants are identified only by a number, which is set by an independent third party. This ensures that ethnicity and gender, if voluntarily provided, as well as applicant scores, are not associated with a person's name. Only after the list of successful applicants is published is any information about individual applicants revealed to the BPC (and the public). Even then, personally identifying information is limited to what can be garnered by an individual's name.

The BPC held an exam on April 5, 2021, to establish a list for entry into a pilotage training program for either the Puget Sound or Grays Harbor Pilotage Districts. A total of 40 application forms were received. Three applicants did not meet the minimum requirements to take the exam.

The exam process consists of two phases – a multiple choice Written Exam and Simulator Evaluation. Those applicants successful in the written phase advance to the Simulator Evaluation phase. Twenty-two applicants advanced to the Simulator Evaluation, scoring above the minimum cut score. The Board sets the cut scores for both the Written Exam and Simulator Evaluation in conformance with a psychometrically validated process. A ranked waiting list of the top 11 candidates was established from the combined results of both phases of the exam. As of August 31, 2022, five candidates from the 2021 exam have started training in Puget Sound and two in Grays Harbor.

In the exam process, applicants are identified only by number, which is set by an independent third party.

2021 Exam – Successful Applicants Ranking and Preferred Districts

#1	Stephen Scott	GH/PS	#7	Ryan Leo	GH/PS
#2	Mitchell Hetterle	GH/PS	#8	Joel Michaelson	PS
#3	William Kelly	GH/PS	#9	Colby Grobschmit	GH/PS
#4	Michael Mancini	PS	#10	Harlow Wood	PS
#5	George Fleischfresser	GH/PS	#11	Nicholas Sabbath	GH/PS
#6	Billie Sturgell	PS			