

# PROGRAM BASICS

Imagine taking a pile of wood and turning it into functional art. That's just what our students do, entirely by hand and with some of the most modern tools. You'll steam bend, shape and sand a shapeless pile of lumber into a slick artisan boat.

The Wooden Boat Building program is in many ways the Renaissance program of the school. Since 1978 students have been building boats from scratch, relying upon and interpreting plans created by yacht designers. Not only do these students work with wood, they also work with composites, and installing marine systems. It is a powerful stand-alone diploma program, and a springboard from which to explore depth on other program areas offered at the school.

Students are assigned to boat-specific groups and work through the challenges, tricks, and artistry that comes with fine woodworking and in the process become high performing individuals and teams.

The boats students' build varies from year to year to ensure students build a boat or boats that match the student cohort and interest, and the skills needed in the industry. Typically, students might expect to build a mid-sized boat such as the Flyfisher 22 powerboat or a sailboat such as the Haven 12 ½, and may also be engaged in the construction of elements of smaller boats such as a Peapod or Catspaw as well in order to round out their skills.

After you've learned woodworking skills from masters of the craft you'll be able to start your own shop. Or build your own boat and sail around the world. Or even earn your PhD, teach at MIT and become The Landing School president. Our graduates have done all of this and more.

## Before You Begin

In order to get a running start on your program, consider review these websites:

Math Reviews: <http://khanacademy.org>  
<http://www.webmath.com/index.html>  
<http://www.freemathhelp.com/trigonometry-help.html>

Boat Terminology: <http://www.boatsafe.com/nauticalknowhow/gloss.htm>

## What You'll Learn to Do

Students who select the Wooden Boat Building program receive instruction through formal lectures, field trips, and hands-on projects. Students are divided into teams to build boats under the supervision of an instructor. These teams are responsible for all aspects of construction from lofting, set up, planking, fairing, joinery, spars, and rigging, to finish work and sea trials; with an eye towards quality and efficiency. Subjects of study you will cover include:

Professional Shop Practices	Traditional Boat Building Techniques: Lapstrake planking
Proper Training in Modern and Traditional Tools	Joinery and Refitting
Modern Boat Building Techniques: Cold Molding	Rigging

## Careers

The U.S. boat building industry includes about 1,000 companies with a combined annual revenue of about \$5 billion. Major product segments are outboard motorboats (40 percent of revenues); inboard motorboats (30 percent); and inboard-outboard boats (20 percent). Other product types include sailboats and canoes. Some boat builders also do repair work, operate marinas, and sell auxiliary equipment and supplies on premises. Students who graduate with a diploma or degree in Wooden Boat Building may find a career in Wooden Boat Building or in an alternative such as:

Boat crew	Technical/lumber sales	Writer
Boat restorer	Musical instrument design	Teacher
Cabinet and furniture construction	Interior/Exterior/Finish Boat Builder	

Employment Rate: 75%  
Average Starting Salary: \$31,200