

## TVL MARITIME: ROAD TO THE SEA

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Millions of Filipinos are working overseas as seafarers, and the educational sector saw this opportunity to offer a Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) program called Maritime Specialization, wherein students enrolled in this strand will be able to acquire necessary learning and training in order to qualify as ratings at sea (Midway Colleges, 2022). Hands-on experience is also provided for students under this specialization, wherein they will be career-ready and eligible for certification from the industry authority. TVL Maritime is commonly offered in institutions specializing in such courses for transportation and engineering, and the job opportunities are also promising, especially on an international scale.

The TVL Maritime possesses various advantages that make students exit-portal-ready. First, it equips students with specialized skills relevant to the maritime sector, including navigation, seamanship, and maritime safety protocols. Such skills are in high demand, offering graduates a competitive edge in the job market. Students are also provided with real-world experiences through immersion training in actual vessels or simulators, enabling them to fully grasp the concept of working onboard. In addition to this, the strand also focuses on attitude and behavioral management, pushing the learners to develop discipline, adaptability, and teamwork. Strategic planning, navigational, organizational, and foreign language skills are also relevant in the strand. Those traits are mandatory for an individual to succeed in the maritime industry (Pell, 2020).

While the advantages are evident, some disadvantages coexist with them. Many of the maritime schools in the country are not fully equipped to cater to the simulation

requirements of the learners. This problem even caused the country's industry to be banned in terms of providing seafarers to European-flagged vessels a few years ago. This only means institutions must invest in developing facilities to let their students experience holistic learning (Silverio, 2023). Once addressed, Filipino students interested in overseas will have better employment opportunities after their senior high school years.

As the maritime industry opens itself to greater demands from all over the world, one thing is sure: more job opportunities for TVL Maritime graduates. Port logistics operators and managers will have higher demands than in previous years, and many shore-based positions will resurface, providing more careers to people aspiring to work in the fast-paced industry of port operations and navigations.

Many youngsters aspire to become seafarers as the success stories of others inspire them. While demands increase, Filipino learners are given a more straightforward path in the industry through TVL Maritime. Through this, may the institutions invest in providing the best education for their students, and may the government also monitor how specialized strands in senior high school are thriving nowadays.

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