

THE LANDING SCHOOL

Imagine. Design. Build. Maintain.



Highlights & Events

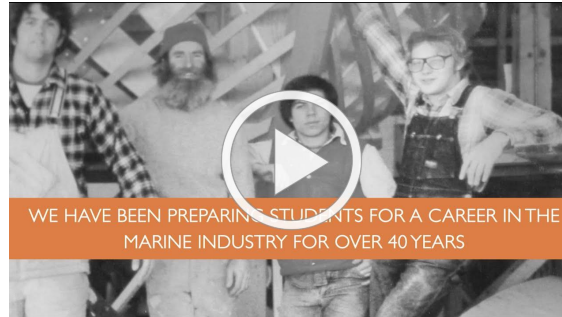


The Landing School's Response to COVID-19

With COVID-19 still a looming threat across the globe, The Landing School is working overtime to ensure its students are able to carry on with their studies, that the future of the school remains intact, and its team continues receiving a paycheck. From an administrative perspective, we have been meeting about this since February, with concrete decisions already happening by early March.

When it became apparent that COVID-19 was turning into a potential global crisis, The Landing School administration met to discuss next steps. On March 11, we met with all faculty and students to discuss what, at the time, was an uncertain future. With spring break starting on March 13, our plan was to re-open, if possible, on March 23, requesting those students and faculty members who had traveled to "high risk" zones to self-quarantine. By March 18, it was apparent we would not be returning to the classrooms after the holiday and by March 30 we had resumed all classes online via the Zoom platform.

Our doors are closed, but we remain very busy, as you can see for yourself in the video below.



We extended our “back to campus” deadline to April, then to May. We made this decision with the health and safety of our team and our students in mind. On March 31, the [Maine governor issued a “Stay Healthy at Home” mandate](#), but we were well ahead of her.

The faculty and students have embraced learning online (as you can see in the [video above](#) and as you can read about in our **Notes from the Shop Floor**) and we continue working with our students. We have also set up in/out protocols for students to pick up necessary materials and tools at our facility. As you would imagine, we are adhering to all sanitary guidelines while we are in the building and when someone enters and exits the facility.

The Advisory Executive Committee is maintaining its weekly meetings and we are scheduled for a full meeting of the Board of Directors in mid-April, all via Zoom. Rest assured, we continue to look toward 2020/2021 with our eyes open. As we work through various scenarios and working templates, we are well aware that what will allow us to move forward successfully is our ability to be flexible in our planning. That flexibility is quite evident through our ability to transition to online classes and carry on working with our students. These new online skills will only serve to help us support our students in the future as well.

Out of respect for the current, ever-changing worldwide landscape, we have scaled back our recruiting efforts, but not entirely. We maintain our brand presence on social media to keep The Landing School forefront on everyone’s minds and we plan to continue ramping up those efforts as people ease into their new work-at-home or out-of-work circumstances. That said, we are still receiving and accepting applications for future students and we continue our conversations with prospective students.

Beyond taking care of the students, one of our primary concerns is to keep our school and our team intact. We are aggressively planning for what has become an uncertain future for many small businesses as we weather the COVID lockdowns. The recently passed CARES Act has proposed many sources of support for small business and educational institutions. As a small business and a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we have applied for the Payroll Protection Program, a loan designed to assist with workforce salaries, utilities, and mortgage interest. We submitted the application last week and our bank has informed us that we have been approved by the SBA and should have some support shortly. This support will help maintain our staff but certainly will not be enough. We continue to explore other options from the Act to keep our entire staff and systems whole. The much-appreciated support from our donors remains a critical part of the schools’ budget as we focus on our mission to educate the marine workforce and to ensure our industry is ready to get back to work once this pandemic has ended.

Donate

In the News

Remote Hands-On Training

As The Landing School faculty builds upon its ability to work with students online during the various shelter-in-place mandates, instructors Rick Barkhuff and Jake Jacobsen have landed on a brilliant way to bring hands-on training to

their remote students. Each student in the [Wooden Boat Building program](#) has received a model kit for a Dark Harbor 17 via [Blue Jacket Ship Crafters](#).

Overall, the group of eight students plus three instructors will construct 11 of these models of a 25'10" daysailer designed by [B.B. Crowninshield](#), best known for his America's Cup contender *Independence* (1901).

Students and faculty each will be building these models at home, communicating via Zoom, as an end-of-year recap of techniques and skills. It also showcases that these students are skilled enough to tackle these types of projects on their own, with some virtual guidance.



We will keep you updated as these projects progress.



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Notes from the Shop Floor

The Landing School's Approach to Online Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented some distinct challenges for The Landing School where our curricula is so focused on hands-on learning. However, using web conferencing tools such as Zoom, both the faculty and the students have risen to the challenge and we have been able to continue to provide the students with a meaningful and relevant education.

Fortunately, this pandemic is occurring late in the academic year when the foundation of shop-based learning has already been established and we can use distance learning combined with smaller remote projects to reinforce the skills the students have learned.

Some of the methods we are employing:

Web Based Lectures: We are finding that faculty and students alike embrace the Zoom web-conferencing tool as an effective way to deliver lectures. In addition, by using screen mark-up tools, the faculty is able to emphasize important points and keep the lecture

Classification Society Scantlings

- What strategy do classification societies (or ISO) use for determining scantlings?
- The same as we have been doing!
- Determine the loads on the element (panel or stiffener) using an empirical method.
E.g. "Heller an Jaaper" hydrostatic head, etc.

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engaging.

Individual Project Review: Especially in Yacht Design, where students are doing CAD design work on the computer, faculty and students collaborate in real time on the student's design. Students share their computer desktop and allow the faculty to take control of the software and demonstrate right on the student's own design model.

Moderated Video: Leveraging a wealth of professional video that exists online, our faculty are delivering engaging sessions with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. The class can watch a video and the instructor can facilitate meaningful discussion to reinforce important concepts. Sources for videos include [ABYC](#), [Evinrude Outboards](#), [Off Center Harbor](#), and much more.

Guest Speakers/Lectures: We are engaging industry professionals from around the country to provide insightful lectures on focused topics in the marine industry.

Virtual Field Trip: Using FaceTime, students with projects working on boats on the waterfront have been able to deliver interactive guided tours of those boats and the projects right to their classmates' desktops.

“Google Forms” for Assessment: Using Google Forms, faculty can use surveys to check for understanding and promote meaningful discussion. Additionally, they can create effective online tests and quizzes.

Of course, as with anything, there has been a learning curve for both the faculty and the students to make real progress using new tools in a trying time, but all are satisfied that we are continuing to provide the valuable education and experience for which The Landing School is known.

[Read More](#)