FCC Amateur Radio License Renewal Guide

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (LVARC) — W3OI

November 2026 | Important Information for All Amateur Radio Operators

The FCC uses two online systems for amateur radio licensing: **ULS** for license applications and **CORES** for account management and fee payments. Understanding how they work together can help prevent renewal problems.

Important Facts

- Amateur radio licenses are valid for **10 years**.
- FCC renewal fee: **$35**.
- Renewals can begin **90 days before expiration**.
- Expired licenses have a **two-year renewal grace period**, but transmitting is prohibited until renewal is granted.
- License upgrades and routine contact-information changes are free.

Step 1 — Create or Access Your FCC CORES Account

Visit: https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do

1. Sign in with your FCC CORES username and password.
2. If you do not have an account, select **Register** to create one using your email address.
3. Verify your email address if prompted.

Step 2 — Associate Your FRN With CORES and ULS

This is an important step for members who have not previously linked their FRN to a CORES username account.

Your FCC Registration Number (FRN) identifies your license in both CORES and ULS.

1. Log into FCC CORES.
2. Look for **Associate Username to FRN** or the FRN management option.
3. Enter your existing **10-digit FRN**.
4. Enter the password associated with that FRN, if requested.
5. Complete the association and confirm that your FRN appears under your CORES account.
6. Visit the FCC ULS License Manager and sign in using the credentials required by ULS to verify that your amateur radio license is accessible.

Don't know your FRN?

Look up your callsign at:

https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp

Your FRN is listed in your license record.

Important: Do not register for a new FRN if you already have one. Associating your existing FRN with CORES does not change your callsign, license class, or expiration date.

Step 3 — Submit Your License Renewal

Visit: https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp

1. Sign in to ULS License Manager.
2. Select your amateur radio license.
3. Choose **Renew**.
4. Verify your contact information.
5. Submit the application and save the application file number.

Step 4 — Pay the FCC Renewal Fee

Return to FCC CORES and complete the **$35 payment**.

Payment generally must be completed within **10 calendar days** after your application file number is issued.

An application may be dismissed if payment is not received by the deadline.

Step 5 — Verify Your Renewal

Return to ULS and check your application status.

Once the renewal is granted, download your updated license and confirm the new expiration date.

A payment receipt alone does not confirm that your license has been renewed.

Common Problems and Solutions

Problem	Solution
Cannot access CORES	Use account recovery or register for a username account.
FRN does not appear in CORES	Select Associate Username to FRN and enter your existing FRN.
Forgot FRN password	Use FCC recovery procedures or contact FCC support.
Cannot access license in ULS	Confirm you are using the correct FRN and ULS login credentials.
Cannot find payment	Check CORES for outstanding application fees.
Payment failed	Check payment status before submitting another payment.
Application dismissed	Contact FCC support to determine whether you must reapply.
License expired	Renew within two years; do not transmit until renewal is granted.

FCC Assistance

FCC Licensing Support Center

877-480-3201

Monday–Friday, 8 AM–6 PM Eastern

Additional information:

https://www.arrl.org/fcc-cores-registration-instructions

https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee

LVARC Member Reminder

Check your license expiration date and verify access to both FCC systems well before your renewal window.

Never share your FCC passwords or payment information with anyone assisting you.

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club — W3OI

https://www.w3oi.org

Helping amateur radio operators stay licensed and on the air.