

MS IN MARINE SCIENCE

Total units required for MS: 31-34

Program Description

The Master of Science degree in Marine Science is offered as an interdepartmental degree through Biological Sciences in cooperation with Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

Admission Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Marine Science program is administered through MLML and the Biological Sciences Department. The prospective student must meet the entrance requirements for the program and will be accepted into unclassified or conditionally classified graduate status by normal procedures. The student will become classified upon completion of MLML's requirements.

A conditionally classified student may become fully classified in the Marine Science program as follows:

- obtain an advisor at MLML and one from the department of the student's choice at the home campus. Each new student in the MS program at MLML will be assigned an advisor who may or may not be the final thesis advisor;
- make up any coursework deficiencies at either the home campus department (see their regulations) and/or MLML. MSCI 104, and three of the following five courses are prerequisites for classified graduate standing:

Code	Title	Units
MSCI 103	Marine Ecology	4
MSCI 141	Geological Oceanography	4
MSCI 142	Physical Oceanography	4
MSCI 143	Chemical Oceanography	4
MSCI 144	Biological Oceanography	4

These courses may be waived by the graduate committee upon certification that equivalent courses have been satisfactorily completed. MSCI 104 is a prerequisite and cannot be counted toward the 30-unit degree requirement;

- students who do not receive a GPA of 3.0 or better in the courses listed above taken at MLML, or who wish to substitute equivalent courses taken elsewhere regardless of the grade(s) received, must pass a written qualifying examination given by the faculty at MLML. Contact MLML for further information.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MS: 31-34

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

A student becomes eligible for the MS degree in Marine Science after satisfying the following requirements:

- the student has been advanced to candidacy;
- the student has satisfied MLML's requirements for the degree; and
- the student has completed the following curriculum requirements.

Advancement to Candidacy

To be advanced to candidacy, the student must have:

- attained classified standing;
- selected a thesis problem and a thesis advisory committee. The thesis committee will be composed of at least three members, including one faculty member from MLML (who is ordinarily the thesis advisor) and, at the discretion of the home campus, a representative from that campus. The other member or members of the thesis committee may also be from MLML, or from the home campus, or elsewhere, with the approval of the thesis advisor; and
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento or secured approval for a WPG waiver.

Notes:

- The student must have submitted a thesis approved by the thesis advisory committee. The thesis must conform to the rules set forth by the home campus.
- The student must successfully give an oral thesis defense in the form of a seminar open to the general public. The thesis advisory committee must be present, may require further oral questioning after the seminar, and will evaluate the success of the presentation.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses (7-10 Units)		
MSCI 285	Seminar in Marine Biology	2
MSCI 286	Seminar in Marine Geology	2
MSCI 287	Seminar In Oceanography	2
MSCI 299	Master's Thesis	1 - 4
Electives (24 Units) ¹		
Select 9 units of electives from MSCI 200-level courses		9
Select 15 units of electives from MSCI 100-level or above courses as approved by the thesis committee. The following courses may be used:		15
MSCI 112	Marine Birds and Mammals	
MSCI 113	Marine Ichthyology	
MSCI 124	Marine Invertebrate Zoology I	
MSCI 125	Marine Invertebrate Zoology II	
MSCI 131	Marine Botany	
MSCI 201	Library Research Methods	
MSCI 202	Oceanographic Instrumentation	
MSCI 211	Ecology of Marine Birds and Mammals	
MSCI 212	Advanced Topics in Marine Vertebrates	
MSCI 221	Advanced Topics in Marine Invertebrates	
MSCI 231	Biology Of Seaweeds	
MSCI 234	Advanced Biological Oceanography	
MSCI 242	Plate Tectonics	
MSCI 248	Marine Benthic Habitat Techniques	
MSCI 251	Marine Geochemistry	
MSCI 261	Ocean Circulation and Mixing	
MSCI 271	Population Biology	
MSCI 272	Subtidal Ecology	
MSCI 280	Scientific Writing	

MSCI 298	Research in the Marine Sciences
Total Units	31-34

¹ Other electives, including courses from home campus departments, may be included after consultation with the thesis advisory committee. See course descriptions for prerequisites.