To be advanced to candidacy, the student must have:

**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
--- | --- | ---
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:

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 Biology |
MSCI 280 | Scientific Writing |

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1. **Units**: 7-10 units

### 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSCI 103</td>
<td>Marine Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCI 141</td>
<td>Geological Oceanography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCI 142</td>
<td>Physical Oceanography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCI 143</td>
<td>Chemical Oceanography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCI 144</td>
<td>Biological Oceanography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSCI 298</th>
<th>Research in the Marine Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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.