Marine Science

Description of the major:

Marine science at Coastal Carolina University is an interdisciplinary field where students receive diversified training in marine science by taking courses in marine biology, marine chemistry, marine geology and physical oceanography. Upon completion of the core courses, students are encouraged to select an area of emphasis that may include: marine biology, coastal geology, marine analytical technology, marine/environmental chemistry or ocean/atmosphere dynamics.

The student experience:

- Coastal Carolina University has the largest undergraduate marine science program on the East Coast.
- Department facilities include a lecture/laboratory complex, computer research labs and research vessels. The University owns part of Waties Island, a pristine barrier island used for course activities and student research and that houses the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, where students and faculty work on a wide range of projects including coastal geology, environmental education and watershed/environmental quality.
- Internship opportunities are available at sites such as Ripley’s Aquarium, Huntington Beach State Park, Myrtle Beach State Park and other organizations across the nation.
- Off-site field courses for students include coral reef ecology held in Discovery Bay, Jamaica, and shark biology at the Bimini Biological Field Station in the Bahamas.
- Exchange programs provide an opportunity to spend a semester abroad at Deakin University in Australia or many other locations around the world.
- Students who are residents of Academic Common Market (ACM) states (AR, KY, LA, MD, MS, OK, TN, VA and WV) and who are fully accepted as full marine science majors may qualify for in-state tuition rates. Students in pre-major status do not qualify for the ACM program. Visit coastal.edu/acm for specific admission requirements.

Beyond the classroom:

Marine science majors are prepared for a variety of careers including: marine scientist for federal, state and local government and private industry; environmental educator with aquariums, schools, parks and tourism industry; teacher; scientific technician; aquaculturist; aquarist/trainer; and land-use resource planner.

Areas of study:

Students will take introductory foundation courses in the sciences (including biology, calculus, chemistry, marine science, physics and statistics); an upper-level course in each of the main sub-disciplines of marine biology, marine chemistry, marine geology and physical oceanography; and upper-level elective courses in an area of emphasis, like biology of marine mammals, environmental ecotoxicology or ecology of coral reefs.

For more information:

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- www.coastal.edu/marine/academicprograms