Ph.D. in Coastal and Marine Systems Science

**CMSS Program Requirements (60 Credit Hours)**

**Core Courses (16 Credit Hours)**

Complete the following courses:
- CMWS*601 - Coastal Marine and Wetland Processes (3 credits)
- CMWS*602 - Coastal Marine and Wetland Ecology (3 credits)
- CMWS*603 - Coastal and Wetland Policy and Management (3 credits)
- CMWS*609 - Coastal and Marine System Science, Issues and Applications Seminar (1 credit)*
  
  * One credit hour course is required for four semesters

**Quantitative Core Requirement:** choose one course from the following:
- CMWS*610 - Applied Experimental Designs & Analyses (3 credits)
- CMWS*611 - Modeling of the Atmosphere and Ocean (3 credits)
- CMWS*615 - Advanced Experimental Designs and Analyses (3 credits)
- CMWS*618 - Temporal and Spatial Analysis (3 credits)
- CMWS*620 - Introduction to Scientific Computing (3 credits)
- GEOG*611 - GIS Fundamentals (3 credits)
- STAT*604 - Applied Statistics for Research I (3 credits)

Or another approved quantitative course

**Specialized Courses, Directed Study and Dissertation Credits (44 credit hours)**

Graduate coursework approved and transferred from an earned Master’s degree and/or required by a student’s Graduate Advisory Committee.

- CMSS*799 - Dissertation Research (1-21 credits)
CMSS Program Timeline

Graduate Forms: [https://www.coastal.edu/marine/forms/](https://www.coastal.edu/marine/forms/)

- Establish Graduate Faculty Advisor at admissions

**Start Program**

**1st Semester**
- Initiate dissertation research
- Core coursework
- Acquire research skills and knowledge through specialized coursework

**2nd Semester**
- Acquire research skills and knowledge through specialized coursework
- Core coursework

**Summer Semester**
- Begin dissertation proposal development

**3rd Semester**
- Core and specialized coursework
- Complete core course requirements

**4th Semester**
- Pass CMSS Comprehensive Exam

**Summer Semester**
- Complete dissertation proposal and send to Graduate Advisory Committee
- Defend dissertation proposal (publicly)
- Pass CMSS Qualifying Exam
- Advancement to Candidacy

**6th Semester**
- Continue dissertation research towards completion

**Summer Semester**
- Begin writing dissertation

**7th Semester**
- Continue dissertation research towards completion
- Submit dissertation to Graduate Advisory Committee

**8th Semester**
- Defend dissertation
- Revise dissertation
- Submit final dissertation for approval
- Submit approved dissertation to ProQuest for publishing (optional)

**Graduation**