



Marine Studies Initiative

# Frequently Asked Questions: Marine Studies Initiative (MSI)

[Marinestudies.oregonstate.edu](http://Marinestudies.oregonstate.edu) and [hmsc.oregonstate.edu](http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu)

Contact us at [MarineStudies@oregonstate.edu](mailto:MarineStudies@oregonstate.edu)

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**What is the MSI?** The Marine Studies Initiative at Oregon State University fosters innovative approaches to solving societal challenges for our oceans and coasts by creating a collaborative, transdisciplinary program. MSI is built upon three major goals.

- To provide a new transformational educational experience, highlighted by a new undergraduate major and minor in marine studies.
- To advance leadership in transdisciplinary marine research and scholarship through a variety of research centers.
- To increase societal impact in Oregon and beyond via expanding partnerships and increasing access to education in marine studies.

## **How do I get involved? What opportunities will I have in MSI?**

*K-12 students* can participate in day camps, career days, and lab and field experiences offered through the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center.

*Undergraduates* can take courses related to marine studies or select a marine studies minor or major. With exceptional facilities and mentoring in existing marine science programs, and the development of the new marine studies programs, OSU is home to a culture of student research.

*Community college students* can dual enroll with OSU in marine studies programs, and talk to OSU advisors about taking marine studies courses through OSU.

*Graduate students and post docs* have unique opportunities to conduct research in a variety of fields related to marine studies.

*Life-long learners* can take advantage of a number of different opportunities including continuing education and professional development programs at OSU and volunteer activities at Hatfield Marine Science Center.

**Is there going to be a degree in Marine Studies?** Yes. A new liberal arts major and minor are being developed. Built on a meaningful understanding of marine natural science, these degree options will focus on the human dimensions of marine systems by emphasizing the social, political, and cultural issues of the coasts and ocean. The minor will be available by Fall 2018, and the major will be available by Fall 2019.

**How is a degree in marine studies different from one in marine biology, fisheries and wildlife, or other related degrees?** This degree will be offered through the College of Liberal Arts. Students will receive a Bachelor of Arts for completing all degree requirements rather than a Bachelor of Science as is common for the other majors. This degree will focus on more than just the science of marine systems. It will include studies of public policy, art, communication, and other social sciences in order to add a strong human dimension to the study of marine science.

**Which classes can I take now to prepare me for a degree in marine studies?** We encourage students to enroll in existing programs that best match their current interests. Advisors within existing programs can help

advise about potential options. For fall 2017, MSI will have lists of courses affiliated with marine studies to assist students in course choices. Contact us at [MarineStudies@oregonstate.edu](mailto:MarineStudies@oregonstate.edu) for more information.

**Will MSI offer research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students?** Yes, both undergraduate and graduate students including community college students are already participating in research internships in marine studies at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center and at the OSU main campus in Corvallis. In addition, many courses offer research opportunities, which can lead to mentored research and other opportunities. See <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/hailingfrozenthoughts>, <http://marinebio450blogspot.com>, <http://oregonstate.edu/marineteam>, and other course and student research blogs.

**Will there be new MSI facilities in Newport and Corvallis?** A new teaching and research building to be built in Newport, OR on the Hatfield Marine Science Center campus is currently in the design and fundraising phase. For more information, see OSU President Ed Ray's August 2017 letter, available via a link at <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu>. New student housing in Newport is also in the design phase. Following the completion of these facilities, a new education, research, and outreach building will be built in Corvallis which will then become the new headquarters for the marine studies program

**Where will students take classes through MSI?** Courses will be offered at OSU's Corvallis campus, Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, and online through OSU's eCampus and Open Campus.

**What does Oregon State University offer that is unique?** Oregon State University is a strong research university holding a top tier research designation from the Carnegie Foundation. OSU is also one of only two land, sea, space, and sun grant institutions in the United States. As such, OSU has a multitude of research opportunities that undergraduates and graduates from all disciplines can access. OSU also offers many hands-on experiences both in the field and in labs. The incredible location of OSU allows for easy access to the coast, estuaries, bays, agricultural fields, forests, rivers, streams, lakes, cities, and mountains all while maintaining a small town feel. Check out <http://beavernation.is/commercial>

**What does the Hatfield Marine Science Center have to offer?** HMSC is full of unique opportunities.

*Courses and internships:* HMSC courses cover topics such as marine/estuarine birds, marine mammals, marine invertebrates, aquatic invasions, and ecology courses. HMSC also provides many student internships through REU, COSEE, PROMISE, Sea Grant, and agencies including NOAA. Internships range from atmospheric science to invertebrate and marine mammal biology to management and policy.

*Collaborative research:* HMSC not only provides a variety of research opportunities, but students will also be studying alongside professionals from the OSU Marine Mammal Institute and Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, and agencies including EPA, the USDA, ODFW, and NOAA, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium just a block away. This creates an excellent opportunity for networking with potential future employers.

*Housing while studying and learning:* Students and interns can spend multiple terms living in the student housing facilities in Newport while taking courses that are field-based or completing research and work on the bay, at sea, or in the community.

**For more information:** Jack Barth, *MSI Executive Director*  
Robert (Bob) Cowen, *Director, Hatfield Marine Science Center*  
Kristen Milligan, *MSI Associate Director*  
Maryann Bozza, *Hatfield Marine Science Center Program Manager*  
541-737-2780 (*MSI main office*)  
541-867-0100 (*Hatfield Marine Science Center main office*)  
Location at OSU Corvallis campus: 300 Strand Agriculture Hall (StAg)