



Marine Studies Undergraduate Degree

College of Liberal Arts

NEW MAJOR

Marine Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that explores the dynamic relationship between people and the marine environment. The Marine Studies program contributes to this exploration by emphasizing the human dimensions and perspectives of the ocean and coasts. These human dimensions coalesce in the social sciences, arts and humanities. This program is for students who seek expertise in these liberal arts methods and are keenly aware of the importance of understanding the human aspects of addressing the growing challenges and opportunities for coastal and ocean sustainability.

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**Marine
Studies
Initiative**

This undergraduate degree program in marine studies was launched in partnership with the Marine Studies Initiative.



As a result of completing this degree, students will:

- Gain expertise in the humanities, arts and the social sciences—and apply these approaches to the study of humans in the marine environment
- Have a basic understanding of coastal and ocean ecosystem functioning
- Build educational experience to meet specific career and personal goals, through specialization, internship and capstone experiences
- Understand social and environmental justice as frameworks for study and thinking
- Be ready to excel in careers in the public and private sectors

Hallmarks of the new degree:

- Foundational coursework to develop critical thinking regarding human interactions with the marine environment
- Core classes that provide students with interdisciplinary training, including diverse perspectives and methodological approaches to problem solving and decision making, in marine related fields of inquiry across the social sciences, arts and humanities
- Required coastal experience courses offered at Hatfield Marine Science Center or offered at Corvallis or via Ecampus with significant course dimensions integrating with Hatfield
- Advanced elective coursework to contextualize marine-focused courses and gain expertise toward transdisciplinary and liberal arts-based specializations such as, but not limited to: environmental and social justice, politics and policy, arts and literature, entrepreneurship, global and transnational perspectives and community development

Sample Curriculum

Years 1 and 2: Foundations

- “Humans and the Ocean” orientation course, MAST 201
- Introductory marine natural science courses
 - Oceanography
 - Marine Biology
 - Coastal orientation courses at Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Baccalaureate Core and College of Liberal Arts Core courses
- Specialization to gain interdisciplinary, liberal arts expertise

Years 3 and 4: Core

- Core course "Society, Culture, and the Marine Environment," MAST 300
- Perspectives courses:
 - Ethical, social and environmental justice
 - Ecosystem services and society
 - Literature, history and arts of the sea
 - Politics and policy

Years 1 to 4: Experiential Education

- Coastal experience courses
- Marine Studies Capstone, MAST 425
 - A research project applying methods and tools from the arts, humanities and social sciences to the study of human interactions with the marine environment.

To learn more, visit:

marinestudies.oregonstate.edu/marine-studies-major

For questions, email:

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