

Institute of Marine Sciences

Graduate Degrees

1999-2000

Department	Major	Degree
Marine Science	Marine Science	Master of Science
		Doctor of Philosophy
Coastal Sciences	Coastal Sciences	Master of Science
		Doctor of Philosophy



Institute of Marine Sciences

Darrell Jay Grimes, Director
 Sharon H. Walker, Associate Director for Outreach
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The Institute of Marine Sciences offers a multidisciplinary graduate-level, research-oriented academic degree program. The Institute has three missions: research, education, and outreach. Research is marine-related, focused on all marine environments from the open ocean to coastal environments and from continental shelves to estuaries. Research areas are aquaculture, biodiversity and systematics, biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, coastal ecology, coastal oceanography, environmental fate and effects, fisheries science, geological oceanography, marine biology, marine chemistry, marine geology, marine sedimentology, numerical ocean modeling, science education, and physical oceanography.

Institute faculty are located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Hattiesburg. Gulf Coast locations include the John C. Stennis Space Center, near Bay St. Louis, the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs. Expertise in numerical modeling is provided by scientists in the Institute's Center for Ocean and Atmospheric Modeling (COAM). The Institute offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs in **Coastal Sciences** (through the Department of Coastal Sciences), **Marine Science** (through the Department of Marine Science) and **Marine Biology** (through the Department of Biological Sciences). Faculty in the Department of Geology, Department of Chemistry, Center for Science and Mathematics Education, and the Scientific Computing program are also associated with the Institute.

IMS Campuses

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL), located in Ocean Springs, has offered summer courses in the marine sciences since 1947. GCRL has a three-fold mission of research, education, and service in the marine sciences. Scientific discipline areas encompass biology, chemistry, and geology of coastal and continental shelf waters. Over 160 researchers, technical and support personnel, and students work on this campus; research emphasis areas include aquatic animal health, marine aquaculture, aquatic biodiversity, coastal ecology, fate and effects of environmental pollutants, and fisheries science.

J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium

The state's window on the sea, the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MEC&A) is Mississippi's largest public aquarium. This facility, located in Biloxi, features 48 aquariums and a central 42,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico tank. Science education and a suite of hands-on marine education programs have earned the MEC&A an international, award-winning reputation.

Stennis Space Center

The Stennis Space Center (SSC) is home to more oceanographers than any other location in the world. Students and faculty have the opportunity to interact with more than 1,000 scientists, engineers, and technical personnel who work at this site located near Bay St. Louis, MS. Collaborations are possible with personnel at the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Oceanographic Office, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Data Buoy Center, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration laboratories, and other agencies.

IMS Academic Programs

The Department of Marine Science (MAR) graduate emphasis areas are biological marine science, physical marine science, geological marine science, and chemical marine science. The Department of Coastal Sciences (COA) offers specialized courses at the graduate level focused on research in the areas of aquaculture, coastal and marine fisheries, coastal geology, invertebrate zoology and biology, coastal ecology, parasitology, estuarine chemistry, toxicology, botany, applied molecular techniques, science education, and biodiversity and systematics. Undergraduates interested in preparing for graduate studies in Marine Science or Coastal Sciences should pursue a bachelor's degree program in their department of

choice, developing a strong background in biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and mathematics through calculus. Students interested in the graduate Marine Biology program in the Department of Biological Sciences should review that section.

Over 27 upper-level courses in Coastal Sciences (COA), Marine Science (MAR), Biological Sciences (BSC), and Science and Mathematics Education (SME) are offered at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, mainly during the summer. The Institute and GCRL also cooperate with the Departments of Geology, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry and Biochemistry to provide state-of-the-art research and educational opportunities.

Department of Marine Science

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Asper, Brunner, Kamenkovich, Lohrenz, Nechaev, Redalje, Shiller, Wiesenburg

The Department of Marine Science offers both the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in **Marine Science**. Graduate level education and research programs are offered in four emphasis areas of marine science (biological, geological, chemical, and physical). These areas include numerical ocean modeling. The Marine Science faculty are drawn from its location at the Stennis Space Center (near Bay St. Louis), and from other departments in the College of Science and Technology (Hattiesburg). Scientists affiliated with the Naval Research Laboratory, Naval Oceanographic Office, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other agencies at the Stennis Space Center and elsewhere provide additional state-of-the-art research and educational opportunities in Marine Science.

The best preparation for students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Marine Science would be to develop a strong working knowledge in calculus, applied mathematics, statistics, the basic sciences (biology, chemistry, geology, physics) and engineering. Experience with computers is highly recommended. We realize that not all students will have gained the ideal background for pursuing a M.S. or Ph.D. in Marine Science. Deficiencies will normally be made up during the student's first year.

Master of Science Program

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission and academic requirements for all graduate programs as set forth in this **Bulletin**, regular admission to the Master's program in Marine Science requires successful completion of the **Graduate Record Examination** (verbal plus quantitative) and a high grade point average for the last two years of undergraduate study. Successful applicants usually score 500 or above on the verbal as well as the quantitative portions of the GRE and have grade point averages of 3.0 or above. Also required are three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study and should be sent to the department. A letter of intent should also be sent to the department chair expressing personal academic, research, and career goals. This letter is used in two ways in the admission process. It provides a sample of the applicant's writing competency and communication skills, and provides information concerning the compatibility of the applicant's interests with departmental research interests. A minimum score of 560 is required on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants whose native language is other than English. Applicants who are not eligible for regular admission may be considered for conditional admission. Conditionally admitted students must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the first nine (9) hours of course work numbered 500 and above or on all course work taken while completing this nine (9) hour requirement. If this requirement is not met, the student is not allowed to remain in the program. Upon recommendation by the department chair and approval by the Graduate Dean, the conditionally admitted student may have his or her admission status changed to "regular admission." For students wishing to be considered for graduate assistantships for the academic year beginning in the fall semester, application materials should be received no later than March 1.

Program Requirements

A total of 34 hours of graduate level courses (18 hours of 600 level or higher) with a minimum GPA of 3.0 must be completed in order to fulfill the Master of Science degree requirements. All entering graduate students must complete the four core courses, generally by the end of their first year in residence. Students advance to candidacy for the M.S. degree by completing all the core courses with a grade of B or better, successfully passing the department qualifying examination (administered after the core courses are

completed), and completing a thesis prospectus. A graduate student can accumulate no more than two Cs. Other program course requirements include six (6) hours of Thesis and at least one (1) hour of Seminar in Marine Science. The required courses account for 23 of the total 34 hours; the remaining 11 hours (courses numbered 600 and above) must be chosen by the student (after consultation with the student's adviser) from a list of elective courses approved by the department. More information on Marine Science degree requirements and additional course listings can be obtained by writing to the department chair.

Required Courses

Hours

MAR 501	Biological Oceanography	3
MAR 501L	Biological Oceanography Laboratory.....	1
MAR 541	Marine Chemistry	3
MAR 541L	Marine Chemistry Laboratory	1
MAR 561	Physical Oceanography	3
MAR 561L	Physical Oceanography Laboratory	1
MAR 581	Geological Oceanography	3
MAR 581L	Geological Oceanography Laboratory	1
MAR 689	Seminar in Marine Science	1
MAR 698	Thesis	6
	Approved Electives	11

Doctor of Philosophy Program

The Institute's Department of Marine Science offers a Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Science with specialization in a wide range of marine science fields, including biological, geological and physical oceanography, and marine chemistry. Other areas of specialization numerical ocean modeling. The Ph.D. program emphasizes excellence in research. Qualified students holding either a bachelor's or master's degree in a relevant field of science, mathematics, or computer science are encouraged to apply for admission to the Ph.D. program.

Students must meet the general requirements set forth in the **Graduate Bulletin** of the University of Southern Mississippi. The Ph.D. in Marine Science requires eighty-four (84) graduate hours beyond the bachelor's degree or fifty-four (54) graduate hours beyond the master's degree.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission and academic requirements for all graduate programs as set forth in this **Bulletin**, regular admission to the Ph.D. program in Marine Science requires successful completion of the **Graduate Record Examination** (verbal plus quantitative) and a high grade point average for the last two years of undergraduate study as well as a 3.50 GPA on previous graduate study. Successful applicants usually score 500 or above on the verbal as well as the quantitative portions of the GRE and have a grade point average of 3.0 or above for undergraduate work and 3.5 on previous graduate study. During the last three years, the average GRE scores of successful Marine Science Ph.D. applicants have been 495 (verbal) and 698 (quantitative). Also required are three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study and should be sent to the department or school. A letter of intent should also be sent to the department chair expressing personal academic and research goals. A minimum score of 560 is required on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants whose native language is other than English. For students wishing to be considered for graduate assistantships for the academic year beginning in the fall semester, application materials should be received by the department no later than March 1.

Program Requirements

Required Courses

		Hours
MAR 501	Biological Oceanography	3
MAR 501L	Biological Oceanography Laboratory	1
MAR 541	Marine Chemistry	3
MAR 541L	Marine Chemistry Laboratory	1
MAR 561	Physical Oceanography	3
MAR 561L	Physical Oceanography Laboratory	1
MAR 581	Geological Oceanography	3
MAR 581L	Geological Oceanography Laboratory	1
MAR 689	Seminar in Marine Science	2
MAR 898	Dissertation12
	Approved Electives12*

*MAR 691, MAR 791 - Directed Research in Marine Science, MAR 697, MAR 797- Independent Study and Research, MAR 698 - Thesis and MAR 898 - Dissertation, do not count toward this twelve (12) credit hour approved elective requirement for the Ph.D. The above courses account for forty-two (42) of the total fifty-four (54) hours (students entering with a master's degree) or eighty-four (84) hours (students entering with a bachelor's degree) required for the Ph.D. Course listings for the additional 12-42 required hours can be obtained by writing to the department chair.

Other Requirements

1. The student is required to pass an oral and/or written qualifying examination.
2. The Ph.D. program requires (a) proficiency in two of the following languages: French, German, Russian, or Spanish, or (b) proficiency in one language and in statistics or computer science, or
3. Selection and approval of a suitable research problem.
4. The student is required to pass an oral and/or written comprehensive examination to determine the student's comprehension of course material and the student's ability to pursue the proposed research.
5. Completion and successful defense of a scholarly dissertation based on the student's original research.
6. A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation.

Department of Coastal Sciences

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Brouwer, Comyns, Grimes, Hawkins, Heard, Lotz, J. Lytle, T. Lytle, Moncreiff, Otvos, Overstreet, Perry, Peterson, Poss, Rakocinski*, Stuck, Walker*

**Associate Graduate Faculty*

The Department of Coastal Sciences offers both the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Coastal Sciences. Given the interdisciplinary nature of this department, students interested in pursuing a degree in Coastal Sciences should develop a strong background and working knowledge in the basic sciences. Experience with computers and a basic background in statistics is recommended.

Master of Science Program

The Institute of Marine Sciences offers a Master of Science in Coastal Sciences with specialization in a wide range of subdisciplines including aquaculture, coastal ecology, biodiversity and systematics, coastal geology, environmental chemistry, estuarine and marine botany, fisheries ecology, geochemistry, parasites and diseases, and toxicology. Knowledge deficiencies will be eliminated through completion of elective courses as determined by the student's three-member graduate committee.

Admission Requirements

Granting of regular admission to the Master of Science Degree Program is based on several criteria, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Submission of complete undergraduate transcript(s). Regular admission to the Master of Science Degree Program requires a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 in the last two years of undergraduate credit, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in a science based major;
- 2) Submission of results of the general section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Successful applicants usually score 500 or above on both the verbal and the quantitative sections of the GRE and have an overall GPA of 3.0 or above;
- 3) A letter of intent stating interests and career goals as well as three letters of recommendation. The letters of recommendation should be from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study and should be sent to the department. The department will not initiate its review of an application until the essay and letters of recommendation are provided. The essay is used as an example of the applicant's writing and communication skills, and provides information concerning the compatibility of the applicant's interests with departmental research interests. The essay and letters of recommendation should be sent to the Office of Student Services at IMS-GCRL; and
- 4) A minimum score of 560 on the paper test or 220 on the computer test is required on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants whose native language is other than English.

Because more qualified students apply to the Department of Coastal Sciences than can be accepted,

admission is selective and a complete application must be submitted.

Conditional admission to the Department of Coastal Sciences is considered for students who meet Graduate School standards for conditional admission and who are sponsored by a member of the faculty of Coastal Sciences. The sponsor must provide a written statement indicating willingness to serve as the applicant’s major professor. Conditional students cannot obtain a Departmental assistantship but can be awarded a research stipend from a major professor’s grant.

Conditionally admitted students must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the first nine (9) hours of formal course work numbered 500 and above or on all course work taken while meeting this nine (9) hours requirement, not including research hours. If this requirement is not met, the student is not allowed to remain in the program. Upon recommendation of the department chair and approval by the Graduate Dean, the conditionally admitted student may have their admission status changed to “regular admission.”

Students wishing to be considered for a limited number of graduate assistantships for the academic year beginning in the fall semester must have their completed package to the Graduate School no later than March 1. All applications for admission reviewed after this date will be considered if space is available, or will be placed in consideration for the next term.

Program Requirements

A minimum of thirty (30) graduate hours is required for this degree. Students must meet the general requirements of the Graduate School of The University of Southern Mississippi. Students advance to candidacy for the M.S. degree by completing the entire Program of Study (projection of coursework taken during tenure in Coastal Sciences; see below) developed in consultation with their graduate committee with a 3.0 average or above, completing an approved thesis prospectus, and successfully passing the oral and/or written thesis comprehensive examination.

The following list describes major additional requirements:

- 1) Choose a major professor and establish a three-member graduate thesis committee by the end of the third semester in residency;
- 2) Develop a Program of Study in consultation with major professor and thesis committee by the end of the second semester of residency. Graduate students cannot accumulate more than two Cs;
- 3) Submit a research prospectus approved by the graduate thesis committee by the end of the third semester in residency;
- 4) Pass an oral and/or written comprehensive examination by the end of the third semester in residency (administered by the thesis committee); and
- 5) Present an acceptable copy of the thesis to the graduate thesis committee at least ten days prior to a public defense of the thesis at a publicly announced meeting. (See Thesis Timetable in front section of this **Bulletin**.)

Program of Study

	Hours
COA 601 Coastal Processes I.....	3
COA 602 Coastal Processes II	3
COA 603 Professional Skills.....	2
PSY 662 Quantitative Methods I*	3
COA 691 Research in Coastal Sciences.....	6
COA 698 Thesis	6
Electives (Determined by major adviser and advisory committee)**	7

*Students can substitute another 3 hour statistics course approved by the major adviser and Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

**COA 697 - Independent Study and Research, COA 698 - Thesis, do not count toward this 7 credit hours of electives for the M.S. degree. This 7 credit hours of electives is the minimum requirement and additional courses may be recommended.

Doctor of Philosophy Program

The Institute of Marine Sciences offers a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in the Department of Coastal Sciences with specialization in a wide range of subdisciplines including aquaculture, coastal ecology, biodiversity and systematics, coastal geology, environmental chemistry, estuarine and marine botany, fisheries ecology, geochemistry, parasites and diseases, and toxicology. The Ph.D. program emphasizes excellence in research. Knowledge deficiencies will be eliminated through enrollment in elective courses

as determined by the student's five-member graduate committee. Qualified students holding a bachelor's degree (B.S./B.A.) or M.S. degree in a relevant field of science are encouraged to apply for admission.

Admission Requirements

Granting of regular admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program is based on several criteria, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Regular admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program requires consideration of the undergraduate overall GPA of 3.0 in a science-based major and a minimum GPA of 3.5 on all previous graduate work;
- 2) Submission of results of the general section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Successful applicants usually score 500 or above on both the verbal and the quantitative sections of the GRE and have an overall GPA of 3.0 or above;
- 3) A letter of intent stating interests and career goals as well as three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study and should be sent to the department or school. The Department will not initiate its review of an application until the essay and letters of recommendation are provided. The essay is used as a sample of the applicant's writing and communication skills, and provides information concerning the compatibility of the applicant's interests with departmental research interests. These should be sent to the Office of Student Services at IMS-GCRL; and
- 4) A minimum score of 560 on the paper test or 220 on the computer test is required on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants whose native language is other than English.

Because more qualified students apply to Coastal Sciences than can be accepted, admission is selective and a complete application must be submitted.

Conditional admission to the Department of Coastal Sciences is considered for students who meet Graduate School standards for conditional admission and who are sponsored by a member of the faculty of Coastal Sciences. The sponsor must provide a written statement indicating willingness to serve as the applicant's major professor. Conditional students can not obtain a Departmental assistantship but can be awarded a research stipend from a major professor's grant.

Conditionally admitted students must maintain a 3.25 GPA for the first nine (9) hours of formal course work numbered 600 and above or on all course work taken while meeting this requirement, not including research hours. If this requirement is not met, the student is not allowed to remain in the program. Upon recommendation of the departmental chair and approval by the Graduate Dean, the conditionally admitted student may have their admission status changed to "regular admission."

Students wishing to be considered for a limited number of graduate assistantships for the academic year beginning in the fall semester must have their completed package to the Graduate School no later than March 1. All applications for admission reviewed after this date will be considered if space is available, or will be placed in consideration for the next term.

Program Requirements

A minimum of eighty-four (84) hours beyond a B.S./B.A. degree or a minimum of fifty-four (54) graduate hours beyond the M.S. degree is required for this degree. Students must meet the general requirements of the Graduate School of The University of Southern Mississippi. Students advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree by completing the entire Program of Study (projection of coursework taken during tenure in Coastal Sciences; see below) developed in consultation with their graduate committee with a B average or above, completing an approved dissertation prospectus, and successfully passing the written and oral comprehensive examinations.

The following list describes major additional requirements:

- 1) Choose a major professor and establish a five-member graduate doctoral committee by the beginning of the third semester in residency;
- 2) The major adviser, the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, and the Department Chair will consider the student's academic record and interview the student at a committee meeting to assess the student's ability to pursue additional graduate work by the end of the first semester of residency. This assessment fulfills the requirement for a qualifying examination as determined by the Graduate Council of The University of Southern Mississippi as stated in this Bulletin;
- 3) Develop a Program of Study (projection of coursework taken during tenure in Coastal Sciences) in consultation with major professor and thesis committee by the end of the third semester of residency. Graduate students cannot accumulate more than two Cs;
- 4) The Ph.D. program requires (a) proficiency in two of the following languages: French, German, Russian

- or Spanish, or (b) proficiency in one language and in statistics or computer science;
- 5) Submit a research prospectus approved by the graduate doctoral committee by the end of the fourth semester in residency;
 - 6) Pass an oral and/or written comprehensive examination by the end of the sixth semester in residency which is administered by the doctoral committee; and
 - 7) Present an acceptable copy of the dissertation to the graduate doctoral committee at least ten days prior to a public defense of the dissertation at a publicly announced meeting. (See Dissertation Timetable in front section of this **Bulletin**.)
 - 8) A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation.

Program of Study

	Hours
COA 601 Coastal Processes I.....	3
COA 602 Coastal Processes II.....	3
COA 603 Professional Skills.....	2
PSY 662 Quantitative Methods I*.....	3
COA 791 Research in Coastal Sciences.....	16
COA 898 Dissertation.....	12
Electives (Determined by major adviser and advisory committee)**.....	14

*Students can substitute another 3 hour statistics course approved by the major adviser and Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

**COA 797 - Independent Study and Research, COA 898 - Dissertation, do not count toward the fourteen (14) hours of electives for the Ph.D. The above courses account for the minimum fifty-four (54) hours required for the Ph.D. for students entering with a M.S. degree. The additional thirty (30) hours of required electives for students entering with a B.S./B.A. degree are selected by the graduate student in consultation with the major adviser and the student's advisory committee. The fourteen (14) hours of electives are the minimum requirement and additional courses may be required.

Department of Biological Sciences

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The University offers both the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Biological Sciences with an emphasis in **Marine Biology**. Institute faculty participate in these degree programs. See the Department of Biological Sciences section of this **Bulletin** for admission and program requirements.

Summer Academic Program at GCRL

Cynthia A. Moncreiff, Summer Program Coordinator
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The Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) offers a selection of accelerated, field-oriented, graduate and undergraduate courses during the summer at its Ocean Springs campus, the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). Summer courses at GCRL are listed in this Bulletin under Marine Science (MAR) and Biological Sciences (BSC) and, where appropriate, are cross-listed by Geology, Chemistry, and Science and Mathematics Education. Summer courses are available for graduate credit. Graduate students may also conduct thesis, dissertation, and directed research at GCRL under the supervision of faculty in the Department of Coastal Sciences (COA).

Admission

Students are admitted to Summer Program courses on the basis of academic performance and credentials. Students are asked to apply directly to IMS/GCRL for admission to the accelerated summer courses so that their records can be reviewed for admission. Admissions will be made on a competitive basis, with a limited number of seats held open for general registration during the STARS program to accommodate the Marine Science and Coastal Sciences graduate degree programs and the Marine Biology undergraduate degree program within USM. Contact the Office of Student Services, Institute of Marine Sciences, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 7000, Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000 for application materials. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is affiliated with 65 colleges and universities whose students participate in

the summer academic program on a competitive basis at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Applications for admission to the IMS/GCRL summer academic program are accepted beginning the second week of January. Decisions on admission to Summer Program courses will be made during the last week of March. Date of application is used to award space in cases where academic credentials are similar; early application to the program is prudent.

Course Loads

The summer academic program courses are offered during two 5-week terms. Because courses are taught at an accelerated pace, i.e., an entire semester of lecture and laboratory is taught in five weeks, a student is allowed to enroll in only one course each term. Students are able to earn up to twelve (12) semester hours credit during the summer. Classes meet each weekday with particular times scheduled for field trips, classroom instruction, and laboratory work.

Housing/Meals for the Summer Program

Housing is available on campus in an air-conditioned dormitory (double occupancy). The dining hall serves three meals daily to dormitory residents. Commuters may also purchase meals on campus for a modest cost.

Fees

Deposit	\$ 50.00
Graduate	\$137.00 per semester hour
Housing and Meals	\$ 94.00 per week

Students pay fees directly to GCRL. Fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Calendar

Application Deadline	March 31, 2000
First summer term begins	May 29, 2000
Second summer term begins	June 3, 2000
Summer session ends	August 4, 2000



Notes