

Institute of Marine Sciences

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The Institute of Marine Sciences offers multidisciplinary graduate-level, research-oriented academic degree programs. Institute faculty are located on both the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Hattiesburg. Gulf Coast locations include the John C. Stennis Space Center, near Bay St. Louis, MS, the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs. The Institute offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Marine Science (through Marine Science), Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Coastal Sciences (through Coastal Sciences), and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology through the Department of Biological Sciences. Marine Science graduate emphasis areas are Biological Marine Science, Physical Marine Science, Geological Marine Science, and Chemical Marine Science.

Over 20 upper-level, undergraduate courses in Biological Sciences (BSC), Coastal Sciences (COA), Marine Science (MAR), and Science Education (SCE) are offered at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, mainly during the summer. Marine Science (MAR) graduate courses in biological, geological and physical oceanography, and marine chemistry are offered at the Stennis Space Center. MAR 151 (a general curriculum natural sciences elective) is offered on the Hattiesburg campus and at the Stennis Space Center. 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. The Institute also cooperates with the Departments of Geology, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry and Biochemistry to provide state-of-the-art research and educational opportunities.

Undergraduates interested in preparing for graduate study 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 Marine Biology degree in the Department of Biological Sciences should review that section of the catalog.

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 (Scott Aquarium) 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 Scott Aquarium an international, award-winning reputation.

Stennis Space Center

The John C. 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 US Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration laboratories, and other agencies.

Summer Academic Program at GCRL

Cynthia A. Moncreiff, Summer Program Coordinator
 Institute of Marine Sciences
 Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
 P.O. Box 7000
 Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000
 (228) 872-4201

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 the three primary departments involved in the program: Coastal Sciences (COA), Biological Sciences (BSC), and Marine Science (MAR). Where appropriate, courses are also cross-listed by Geology, Chemistry, and Science Education. Summer courses are available for graduate or undergraduate credit. Graduate students may also conduct thesis, dissertation, and directed research at GCRL.

Admission to the Summer Academic Program

Due to space limitations for the field-oriented courses, students may need to apply directly to IMS-GCRL for admission to the accelerated summer courses. Courses may fill during registration through the S.T.A.R.S. system. Contact the Summer Program Coordinator, 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. Admission and registration for the IMS/GCRL Summer Academic Program begin once registration through S.T.A.R.S. has closed. Early application to the summer program through S.T.A.R.S. is prudent, because most courses fill quickly.

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 are 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

Limited summer housing is available on the IMS-GCRL campus in an air-conditioned dormitory. During the summer sessions, the dining hall serves three meals daily to dormitory residents.

Fees

Deposit:	\$50.00
Undergraduate:	\$105.00 per semester hour
Graduate:	\$137.00 per semester hour
Room and board:	\$94.00 per week

(Fees are subject to change without prior notice.)

Students pay fees directly to the GCRL. Students with loans arranged through USM should notify the GCRL Office of Student Services at the time of application for admission to the GCRL program. Additional fees may be assessed to cover fuel expenses for extended cruises.

Calendar

Application Deadline:March 30, 2001
First summer term begins:May 29, 2001
Second summer term begins:July 2, 2001

Undergraduate Research

The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory provides opportunities for USM undergraduate students to conduct research at the Laboratory through the Summer Academic Program. This individualized study consists of special topics and special problems courses that allow students to study in subject areas for which there are no formal course offerings. These courses are tailored to provide advanced students the opportunity to participate in field, laboratory, and/or library research with qualified faculty and staff members. The research problems must be marine related and be of a nature which prevents the work from being easily conducted on the USM campus. Departmental approval must be obtained before a student can enter this program. For further information contact: Office of Student Services, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 7000, Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000; telephone (228) 872-4201.

