College of Marine Sciences

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The College of Marine Sciences offers multidisciplinary graduate-level, research-oriented academic degree programs. College 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, Mississippi, the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs. The College offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Marine Science and a Master of Science in Hydrographic Science (through the Department of Marine Science), Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Coastal Sciences (through the Department of 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. 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 College 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.

COMS 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 is a campus of 50 acres that is home to the Department of Coastal Sciences, the Center for Fisheries Research and Development, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. Nearly 200 faculty, technical and support personnel, and students work on this campus.

J. L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium

The state's Gateway to the Gulf, 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 tank whose inhabitants are representative of those found in the Gulf of Mexico. Science education and a suite of hands-on marine programs have earned the Scott Aquarium an international, award-winning reputation. Annual visitation at the Scott Aquarium is 75,000 to 80,000.

John C. Stennis Space Center

The NASA John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) is home to more oceanographers than any other location in the world. USM 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, Mississippi. 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.

Undergraduate Research

The Department of Marine Science, located at the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center, provides opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research in the laboratories of Marine Science faculty members. This individualized study consists of Special Topics and Special Problems courses that allow students to gain experience in marine science research through participation with faculty in various field, laboratory, and/or library research projects. Departmental approval must be obtained before a student can participate in the undergraduate research program. For further information, contact the Department of Marine Science, 1020 Balch Blvd., Stennis Space Center, MS 39529; (228) 688-3177; marine.science@usm.edu.

Summer Field Program at GCRL

Department of Coastal Sciences
P.O. Box 7000
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000
(228) 872-4201

The College of Marine Sciences, through its Department of Coastal Sciences, offers a selection of accelerated, field-oriented graduate and undergraduate courses during the summer at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) campus. 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 Field Academic Program

Due to space limitations for the field-oriented courses, students may need to apply directly to the GCRL for admission to the accelerated summer courses. Courses may fill during registration through the Web. Contact the Summer Program Coordinator, Department of Coastal 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 GCRL Summer Field Program begin once registration through the Web (www.coms.usm.edu) has closed. Early application to the summer program through the Web is prudent because most courses fill quickly.

Course Loads

The Summer Field Program courses are offered during two five-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 GCRL campus in an air-conditioned dormitory that was fully remodeled in 2000. During the summer sessions, the dining hall serves three meals daily to dormitory residents.

Fees

Deposit $50
Undergraduate .....$143 per semester hour
Graduate .....$189 per semester hour
Room and Board.....$130 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.....May 1, 2002
First summer term begins .....May 28, 2002
Second summer term begins .....July 1, 2002

Undergraduate Research

The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory provides opportunities for USM undergraduate students to conduct research at the Laboratory through the Summer Field 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 that 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.