

FAQ (Summer Field Program)

Please read over these frequently asked questions about the Summer Field Program at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. If you have any additional questions, please email sfp@usm.edu

When will I be notified of acceptance into SFP?

As application materials are submitted and reviewed, students will be notified of acceptance into the program on a rolling basis starting mid to late February. This means a student has met the minimum requirements to be admitted to USM and Summer Field Program.

I have submitted my shot record/application fee/transcript, but when I log into the application portal it is not showing as received?

The different materials are sent to different offices for processing, our health center staff reviews shot records, transcripts are reviewed and verified, and admissions must officially accept students. Allow a couple weeks and if it is still not showing up as submitted in the application portal, email sfp@usm.edu to confirm your document was received.

What time does my class meet?

A typical meeting pattern for an in-person class is every weekday 8:30-noon and 1:30- 4:00 for a lecture/lab day, but exact times and schedule will be communicated to you by your professor. Field trip days can meet earlier or later. Typical boat trips are 8:00am- 4:00pm and are weather dependent. Morning rainstorms can delay the start time of a trip, thus delaying the end time. Some classes take evening trips, night trips, or overnight trips, so the meeting pattern may be highly variable. Class meeting patterns for online classes will be communicated by your professor.

How many credit hours can I take?

In each session (June and July), students may take up to 6 credit hours of in-person coursework or 11 credit hours of online coursework.

When will I be notified of what course(s) I am accepted into?

You will be notified approximately a week or two after the early application deadline, which is mid-April.

Why don't I get notified of my courses at the same time as receiving the program acceptance notification?

Program acceptance means you have met the minimum requirements to be admitted into USM and into the Summer Field Program. GCRL admissions staff must carefully review transcripts to ensure pre-requisites are met for specific courses before class assignments are determined.

Do I have to live on campus?

No. However, due to the daily meeting patterns and potential of long field days, many students prefer to live on campus. Dormitories are offered with a meal plan that will allow students to spend their time in lab spaces, common study areas, and access the extended library hours and services easily.

If I live off campus, can I purchase a meal plan?

Not at this time. We are exploring options for a lunch-only meal plan for commuter students.

If I live in the dorm, do I have to have a meal plan?

Yes. USM guidelines require all on-campus students to purchase a meal plan.

Do I need to bring food/water on my field trip?

Commuter students must bring food and water on day field and boat trips. Students on a meal plan will have 3 meals daily, which includes meals on all field trips. Commuter students will have meals provided on overnight field trips only. ALL students, teaching assistants, and instructors should bring a full water bottle on ALL field trips.

I am having technical difficulties with SOAR, setting up USM email, or using Canvas

There is helpful information on the USM iTech web page at: www.usm.edu/itech. The iTech phone number is (601) 266-4357.

How do I have my course credits transferred back to my home institution?

If you are from BGSU, Northwest Missouri State, Auburn, or Southern Arkansas University and enrolled in your courses at your home institution, no action is needed. If you are from another college, request a transcript to be mailed to your home institution either through SOAR (>Student Dashboard > Academics > Order Official Transcript) or at www.transcripts.usm.edu.

I have a dormitory-related question.

Browse our program handbook on the webpage, www.usm.edu/sfp. If you still have questions, email our housing coordinator **Martha.Brown@usm.edu**

I have a different question.

Browse our program handbook on the webpage www.usm.edu/sfp and use Ctrl+F to search for specific keywords. If you still have questions, email sfp@usm.edu or call (228) 818-8812.