Quick Facts About the Marine Science Undergraduate Program

**STATISTICS:**
- Established in 1972, the Marine Science Program offers one of the few comprehensive, interdisciplinary oceanography degrees available at the undergraduate level.
- 300-350 majors: 60% female; 70% out-of-state
- 50-60 undergraduate students receive degrees every year; approximately 65% go to graduate or professional school in 2 years
- 1/3 of majors in SC Honors College, Capstone Scholars, or university scholarship recipients
- 50% of majors on the semester Honor Roll
- 1-5 National Hollings Scholars each year
- Advisor:student ratio 1:22

**STRENGTHS:**
- Interdisciplinary curriculum: biological, geological, chemical, and physical oceanography; marine policy/resource management; fishery management; marine science education.
- Diverse research-oriented, multi-disciplinary and internationally-recognized faculty who regularly win awards for both scholarly pursuits and undergraduate teaching.
- Close interactive relationship with the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences. Located amid the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve outside of Georgetown, SC, the Institute provides field and laboratory facilities, dorms, and boat access to tidal creeks, acres of marsh, and Winyah Bay.
- All Marine Science undergraduate core courses contain innovative labs and incorporate field trips to the coast. This includes MSCI 460, a field course where students spend three weeks at the Baruch Institute participating in sample collection, analyses, and interpretation.
- Majors are required to complete >3 weeks of fieldwork before graduation. In addition to courses taught at the Baruch Institute, students fulfill this requirement through field courses and volunteer research experiences around the globe, including South Africa, Greece, Costa Rica, and Mexico.
- All courses taught by tenured Ph.D. faculty. Most major courses average 25 students or less.
- Students meet individually with faculty advisors at least once per semester to discuss course schedules, internship opportunities, career goals, and future plans. Faculty and staff strive for personal relationships with each major and provide both academic support and encouragement.
- Undergraduate majors are encouraged to participate in hands-on research by volunteering in a faculty member’s laboratory or assisting graduate students with research. University grants are available to fund individual student research projects.
VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE:

• Increase academic scholarships and research fellowships for students in the Marine Science Program.
• Semester at the coast: expansion of MSCI 460 in which students live at the Baruch Field Lab for a semester while taking a series of short, intensive courses taught by main campus faculty or field lab research faculty.
• Internships to perform directed independent research throughout the state.
• Enhanced international opportunities and cultural exchange programs.

For more information about the Marine Science Program at the University of South Carolina, please contact us or visit our website:

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