MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAM
College of Arts and Sciences

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Undergraduate: The Marine Science Program is an interdisciplinary major that leads to a Bachelor of Science degree. It is one of the premier educational programs in the nation, with prominent research affiliations, competitively awarded research grants, and an interdisciplinary academic curriculum. Marine Science includes many areas of study, all concerned with increasing our knowledge of the oceans and coastal regions. Students in Marine Science may choose to specialize in biological, chemical, geological, or physical oceanography, as well as coastal resource management & marine affairs. The major is completed with 36 semester hours of major credit out of the total 128 credit hours required for a bachelor’s degree.

To major in Marine Science, a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 and a minimum grade of C in all marine science core courses is required. Students are also required to undertake at least three weeks of independent field research, at the Baruch Marine Field Laboratory in Georgetown, SC or via an alternative of their choosing.

Graduate: The Marine Science Program offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Our program is designed to train scientists for careers in research, teaching and scientific leadership. This degree requires the completion of an original research project and the writing of a scholarly thesis or dissertation.

CURRICULUM

Undergraduate studies in the Marine Science Program are structured around courses that fulfill requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Marine Science Program, and electives. The first two years focus on general education requirements such as English, foreign language, history, mathematics, and liberal arts or social sciences. You must also complete five marine science core courses with a grade of C or better before enrolling in any upper level major course. You can choose an area of specialization at the end of your freshman or sophomore year with the help of a faculty advisor.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

As one of the leading research institutions in the country, we provide immediate student involvement in cutting edge research, both in courses and in individual faculty labs throughout the University. Many of our undergraduate researchers have their work published in scientific journals and are listed as co-authors. Research opportunities include the Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP), Undergraduate Student Assistants, and Independent Studies Projects.

CAREERS IN MARINE SCIENCE

Today, marine scientists are working on current problems and future needs in the preservation, use, and development of the marine environment. Many positions require graduate study. Some career possibilities include: government agencies at all levels, private industries such as environmental consulting firms, marine technology applications, construction on coastal areas, teaching, and research.
MARINE SCIENCE FACULTY

Faculty members in the Marine Science Program are internationally recognized for their research. An overview of Jointly Appointed Marine Science Faculty interests are below. In addition, the Marine Science Program has close to two dozen Associate Faculty who also conduct marine science research, teach, and mentor students.


**Dr. Ronald Benner**, University of Georgia, 1984. Marine Biogeochemistry, Microbiology. Studies the origin, composition, and reactivity of dissolved and particulate organic matter, microbial food webs, and their effects on carbon and nitrogen cycling.


**Dr. Gwendelyn Geidel**, University of South Carolina, 1982; J.D. University of South Carolina 1989. Environmental Geology. Undergraduate Director, Marine Science Program. Studies prevention and remediation of ground and surface water contamination caused by mining and other human activities.


**Dr. Seth John**, MIT/WHOI Joint Program, 2007. Trace-metal Chemistry, Isotope Geochemistry. Studies the stable isotopes of trace-metals in seawater in order to explore the marine geochemical cycling and biological importance of trace metal nutrients.


**Dr. Joseph Quattro**, Rutgers University, 1991. Population and Conservation Genetics, Molecular Evolution. Studies population genetics of rare, threatened or endangered fishes and gene expression patterns that attend exposure to contaminants in marine sentinel species (grass shrimp, silversides, mummichogs).


**Dr. Timothy Shaw**, Scripps Institute of Oceanography. 1988. Trace Element Geochemistry, Environmental Analytical Chemistry. Studies trace element geochemistry and develops new of techniques for examining trace elements of both anthropogenic and natural origin in the environment.


**CONTACT THE PROGRAM OR VISIT USC**

**Marine Science Program**

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The University of South Carolina provides guided tours of the campus. To arrange a visit to the campus and/or to our Program, please contact our Visitor Center http://visitorcenter.sc.edu/ or call (800) 922-9755.