OCEANOGRAPHY (M.S.)

https://ceps.unh.edu/earth-sciences/program/ms/oceanography

Description

The Oceanography (OCE) graduate program has a diverse set of faculty, staff, and students who examine ocean processes in broad fields of physical, biological, chemical, and geological oceanography and geophysics. Basic and applied research of an experimental, numerical, and analytical nature is conducted in oceanic settings that range from shallow nearshore and estuarine waters to the deep ocean and span all ocean basins on earth including the Arctic.

OCE offers programs leading to M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. These interdisciplinary programs prepare students for professional careers in ocean-relate fields. In addition, students can also pursue an ocean mapping option within the Department of Earth Sciences and carried out within the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping.

Research and Facilities

The oceanography graduate program within the Department of Earth Sciences and the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering (SMSOE) is enhanced by the ocean engineering and marine biology graduate programs, and by other departments and institutes at UNH, including the civil and mechanical engineering and biology departments; the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS); the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM); and the Ocean Processes Laboratory (OPAL). Other related programs include the N.H. Sea Grant Program, the Center for Collaborative Science, and the Atlantic Marine Aquaculture Center, Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC), Northeast Consortium (NEC), and the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP). Oceanographic laboratories at UNH include the Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML) on Appledore Island, the Coastal Marine Laboratory (CML) in Newcastle, the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory (JEL) at Adams Point on the Great Bay, and the Chase Ocean Engineering Laboratory (COEL) on the main UNH campus. Additional laboratories for the oceanography faculty are located on campus in James, Morse, Rudman, and Spaulding Halls. The SMSOE operates a marine support facility and two UNH research vessels moored in Portsmouth Harbor at the UNH pier, the R/V Gulf Challenger and the R/V Gulf Surveyor, as well as a number of small boats. The SMSOE also supports the UNH Diving Program and oversees a shared use Instrumentation Pool for student and faculty use.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should have completed an undergraduate major related to one of the oceanography disciplines, including biology, chemistry, engineering, geology, physics, or mathematics, or an appropriate array of science and engineering courses within their major field. Applicants are expected to have completed one year each of calculus and chemistry and two semesters of physics and/or biology. It is not necessary to have had previous coursework in oceanography.

Requirements

M.S. Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of **30 credits for the thesis option** or **34 credits for the non-thesis option**.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ESCI 997	Seminar in Earth Sciences	1
ESCI 998	Proposal Development	1
Select two of the following core courses:		6-8
BIOL 855	Biological Oceanography	
ESCI 852	Chemical Oceanography	
ESCI 858	Introduction to Physical Oceanography	
ESCI 859	Geological Oceanography	
Select one of the following:		**6 or 2**
Thesis Option:		
OCE 899	Master's Thesis (acceptable to the thesis-examining committee and must pass a thesis defense)	
Non-Thesis Option:		
ESCI 898	Directed Research	
or OCE 898	Directed Research	
Other Relevant Graduate Courses		**16-22**
BIOL 828	Marine Bioacoustics	
CEE 822	Introduction to Marine Pollution and Control	
ESCI 801	Quantitative Methods in Earth Sciences	
ESCI 820	Ocean Measurements Lab	
ESCI #834	Geophysics	
ESCI 841	Geochemistry	
ESCI 845	Isotope Geochemistry	
ESCI 847	Aqueous Geochemistry	
ESCI 854	Sedimentology	
ESCI 856	Geotectonics	
ESCI 860	Paleoceanography	
ESCI 862	Glacial Geology	
ESCI 864	Spectral Analysis of Geophysical Time Series Data	
ESCI 865	Paleoclimatology	
ESCI 871	Geodesy and Positioning for Ocean Mapping	
ESCI 874	Integrated Seabed Mapping Systems	
ESCI 875	Advanced Topics in Ocean Mapping	
ESCI 895	Topics (Ocean Biogeochemistry)	
ESCI 896	Topics (Nearshore Processes)	
ESCI 972	Hydrographic Field Course	
ESCI 995	Advanced Topics (Geophysical Fluid Dynamics)	
ESCI 996	Advanced Topics (Ocean Modeling)	
ESCI 996	Advanced Topics (Nearshore Hydrodynamics)	
IAM 940	Asymptotic and Perturbation Methods	
MATH 835	Statistical Methods for Research	
MATH 839	Applied Regression Analysis	
MATH 845	Foundations of Applied Mathematics I	
MATH 846	Foundations of Applied Mathematics II	
MATH 853	Introduction to Numerical Methods	
ME 807	Analytical Fluid Dynamics	
ME 910	Turbulence	
ME 812	Waves in Fluids	
MEFB 825	Marine Ecology	
MEFB 872	Fisheries Biology: Conservation and Management	
NR 844	Biogeochemistry (or ESCI 896 Topics (Biogeochemistry))	
OE 853	Ocean Hydrodynamics	
OE 854	Ocean Waves and Tides	
OE 857	Coastal Engineering and Processes	
OE 865	Underwater Acoustics	
OE 995	Graduate Special Topics (Coastal Sediment Transport)	
ZOOL 810	Sharks and Bony Fishes	
Total Credits		**30-34**

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a MS in Oceanography should be able to:

Core Knowledge

- Demonstrate a foundation of knowledge in at least 2 of the main branches of oceanography: Geological, Biological, Physical, or Chemical.
- Geological Oceanography: An understanding marine geology and geophysics, including the structure of the Earth, Plate Tectonic Theory, marine sedimentology, paleoceanography, and the global carbon cycle.
- Biological Oceanography: An understanding of marine ecosystems, including the physical and chemical processes that govern nutrient and light availability, the concept of food webs, and fisheries and anthropogenic interactions with fish stocks.
- Physical Oceanography: An understanding of the physics of the ocean, including how wind and thermal forcing at the surface interact with the Earth's rotation to drive ocean circulation in the deep basins and shallow continental shelves and oceanic plateaus, tides, and surface gravity waves.
- Chemical Oceanography: An understanding of the chemistry and chemical interactions in seawater, including biogeochemical processes that govern the distribution and cycling of elements and nutrients, processes that add and remove elements in the ocean, isotopic fractionation, and how ocean chemistry interacts with seafloor sediments and the ocean crust.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of how the processes within the main branches of oceanography interact with each other.
- Demonstrate specialized knowledge of a field within oceanography sufficient to conduct substantive supervised research.

Research Methods and Analysis

- Identify and demonstrate knowledge of a range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies typically used in oceanographic research and critically read research that uses these methods.
- Discover and critically read published research in oceanographic and related fields of the Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology
- Frame empirical research and/or theory guided by prior knowledge.
- Implement a rigorous study using appropriate methods, measures and techniques.
- Critically evaluate and systematically analyze data to reach appropriate findings and interpretations.

Research Independence

- Develop and implement directed research projects that meets high standards of theoretical and methodological rigor.

Scholarly Communication

- Structure a coherent argument that rigorously presents and evaluates evidence to support claims.
- Review and cogently synthesize relevant literature.
- Write at a level and in a style of English consistent with that found in leading academic journals.
- Understand and properly use styles of citing, referencing, and formatting found in leading academic journals.
- Clearly convey research findings through oral presentation supported by appropriate digital media.
- Cogently summarize research and its significance to non-specialist audiences.

Professionalism and Pedagogy

- Prepare manuscripts that meet the standards of academic and research journals and respond appropriately to recommendations for revision.
- When demanded, demonstrate collaboration, leadership and teamwork through participation in research teams and lab groups.
- Make effective contributions to university, community and professional service.
- Communicate effectively to groups in a lecture format.