

Marine Sciences (BS): Physics Concentration

The degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine Science may be obtained by selecting one of five concentrations: Biological Oceanography, Chemistry, Geology, Meteorology, or Physics.

The degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources is available with a concentration in Marine and Coastal Resources.

Marine scientists explore all aspects of the seas and coastal regions, seeking to understand how the oceans, their biological communities, the solid earth and the atmosphere interact. As professionals with interdisciplinary training, marine scientists are needed to advise business, industry and governments on the potential impact of human activities and the wise use of marine resources. Marine scientists work for consulting firms; regulatory agencies; the mass media; business and industry; federal, state and local governments; academic laboratories; research and education organizations; and nonprofit environmental watchdog groups.

Contact

For more information about our marine science programs, visit our website (<https://meas.sciences.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/programs/marine-science/>) or contact:

Maggie Puryear

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Plan Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses/Marine Science ¹		
MEA 100	Earth System Science: Exploring the Connections	4
MEA 200	Introduction to Oceanography	3
MEA 210	Oceanography Lab	1
MEA 250	Introduction to Coastal Environments	3
MEA 251	Introduction to Coastal Environments Laboratory	1
MEA 459	Field Investigation of Coastal Processes	5
MEA 460	Principles of Physical Oceanography	3
MEA 462	Observational Methods and Data Analysis in Marine Physics	3
MEA 495	Junior Seminar in the Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences	1
Physics Concentration ¹		
MEA 463	Fluid Physics	3
MEA 464	Ocean Circulation Systems	3
MEA 467	Marine Meteorology	3
PY 203	University Physics III ¹	4
PY 411	Mechanics I	3
PY 412	Mechanics II	3
PY 413	Thermal Physics	3
PY 414	Electromagnetism I	3
PY 415	Electromagnetism II	3

Technical Elective ²		2
Basic Math & Sciences ¹		
CH 101	Chemistry - A Molecular Science ¹	3
CH 102	General Chemistry Laboratory	1
CH 201	Chemistry - A Quantitative Science ¹	3
CH 202	Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory	1
PY 201	University Physics I ¹	4
PY 202	University Physics II ¹	4
MA 141	Calculus I ¹	4
MA 241	Calculus II ¹	4
MA 242	Calculus III	4
MA 341	Applied Differential Equations I	3
MA 401	Applied Differential Equations II	3
ST 370	Probability and Statistics for Engineers	3
or ST 311	Introduction to Statistics	
Select one of the following Computer Science electives:		3
MEA 217	Introduction to Computing in the Geosciences	
CSC 111	Introduction to Computing: Python	
CSC 112	Introduction to Computing-FORTRAN	
CSC 113	Introduction to Computing - MATLAB	
CSC 116	Introduction to Computing - Java	
PY 251	Introduction to Scientific Computing	
College Requirements		
COS 100	Science of Change ³	2
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research ¹	4
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 331	Communication for Engineering and Technology	
ENG 332	Communication for Business and Management	
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research	
GEP Courses		
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		6
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		6
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		2
GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
GEP Global Knowledge (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-global-knowledge/) (verify requirement)		
GEP Foundations of American Democracy (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-fad/) (verify requirement)		
World Language Proficiency (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/world-language-proficiency/) (verify requirement)		
Total Hours		120

¹ A grade of C- or higher is required in CH 101, 201; ENG 101; MA 141, 241; PY 201, 202, 203. No more than one D will be accepted in MEA core courses and concentration courses. No more than one D will be accepted in other basic math or science courses.

² Students should consult their academic advisors to determine which courses fill this requirement.

³ COS 100 is for new freshmen only. Transfer students will need to select a course from the GEP Interdisciplinary Perspectives course list.

Semester Sequence

Critical Path Courses – Identify using the code (CP) which courses are considered critical path courses which represent specific major requirements that are predictive of student success in a given program/plan. Place the (CP) next to the credit hours for the course.

This is a sample.

First Year

Fall Semester		Hours
MA 141	Calculus I (CP) ¹	4
MEA 100	Earth System Science: Exploring the Connections ¹	4
COS 100	Science of Change ³	2
PY 201	University Physics I (CP) ¹	4
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Hours		15

Spring Semester

CH 101 & CH 102	Chemistry - A Molecular Science and General Chemistry Laboratory ¹	4
ENG 101	Academic Writing and Research ¹	4
MA 241	Calculus II (CP) ¹	4
PY 202	University Physics II (CP) ¹	4
Hours		16

Second Year

Fall Semester

MA 242	Calculus III ¹	4
MEA 200 & MEA 210	Introduction to Oceanography and Oceanography Lab (CP) ¹	4
PY 203	University Physics III ¹	4
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

CH 201 & CH 102	Chemistry - A Quantitative Science and General Chemistry Laboratory ¹	4
MA 341	Applied Differential Equations I ¹	3
MEA 250 & MEA 251	Introduction to Coastal Environments and Introduction to Coastal Environments Laboratory ¹	4
PY 411	Mechanics I ¹	3
Hours		14

Third Year

Fall Semester

GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		3
MA 401	Applied Differential Equations II ¹	3
MEA 460	Principles of Physical Oceanography ¹	3
PY 412	Mechanics II ¹	3

Computer Science Option Elective (p. 1) ¹		3
Hours		15

Spring Semester

MEA 462	Observational Methods and Data Analysis in Marine Physics ¹	3
MEA 467	Marine Meteorology ¹	3
MEA 495	Junior Seminar in the Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences	1
PY 413	Thermal Physics ¹	3
ST 370 or ST 311	Probability and Statistics for Engineers ¹ or Introduction to Statistics	3
GEP Elective (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/)		3
Hours		16

Summer

MEA 459	Field Investigation of Coastal Processes ²	5
Hours		5

Fourth Year

Fall Semester

Advanced Writing Elective (p. 1)		3
GEP Social Sciences (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-social-sciences/)		3
MEA 463	Fluid Physics ¹	3
PY 414	Electromagnetism I ¹	3
Hours		12

Spring Semester

MEA 464	Ocean Circulation Systems ¹	3
PY 415	Electromagnetism II ¹	3
GEP Humanities (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-humanities/)		3
Technical Elective ²		2
GEP Health and Exercise Studies (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/undergraduate/gep-category-requirements/gep-health-exercise-studies/)		1
Hours		12
Total Hours		120

¹ A grade of C- or higher is required in CH 101, 201; ENG 101; MA 141, 241; PY 201, 202, 203. No more than one D will be accepted in MEA core courses and concentration courses. No more than one D will be accepted in other basic math or science courses.

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Career Opportunities

MEAS undergraduate degree programs provide talented students with the foundation of scientific knowledge required for careers in government, industry, or academia. Many students pursue graduate degrees after completion of an undergraduate degree in Marine Science.

Marine Sciences graduates go on to become oceanographers, to manage our coastal resources, model air-sea interaction, and explore global climate change. They conduct basic and applied research, serving

as environmental consultants for industry and governmental agencies, policy and management experts for governmental agencies, and environmental science educators. Graduates with a Natural Resources degree are versed in the fundamental processes and interdisciplinary nature of the coastal zone. As scientists, managers, administrators, and regulators, they make decisions regarding use and conservation of coastal and marine resources.

MEAS graduates play a key service role for the State of North Carolina, assisting in everything from forecasting severe storms and analyzing the impact of atmospheric pollutants on agriculture and our estuaries, to determining the effects of toxic waste disposal on quality of surface and ground water.

Career Titles

- Chief Scientist
- Coastal Geologist
- Conservation Scientist
- Contact Diver
- Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Protection Specialist
- Environmental Research Scientist
- Environmental Scientist
- GIS and Geological Oceanography Specialist
- Marine Eco-toxicologist
- Marine Geophysicist
- Natural Science Manager
- Ocean Mapper
- Oceanographer
- Sensory Biophysicist
- Undersea Specialist
- Wildlife Biologist
- Zoologist

Learn More About Careers

NCCareers.org (<https://nccareers.org/>)

Explore North Carolina's central online resource for students, parents, educators, job seekers and career counselors looking for high quality job and career information.

Occupational Outlook Handbook (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)

Browse the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to view state and area employment and wage statistics. You can also identify and compare similar occupations based on your interests.

Career One Stop Videos (<https://www.careeronestop.org/>)

View videos that provide career details and information on wages, employment trends, skills needed, and more for any occupation. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Focus 2 Career Assessment (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/explore-careers/career-assessments/>) (NC State student email address required)

This career, major and education planning system is available to current NC State students to learn about how your values, interests, competencies, and personality fit into the NC State majors and your future career. An NC State email address is required to create an

account. Make an appointment with your career counselor (<https://careers.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/hours-appointments/>) to discuss the results.

Focus 2 Apply Assessment (<https://www.focus2career.com/Portal/Register.cfm?SID=1929>) (Available to prospective students)

A career assessment tool designed to support prospective students in exploring and choosing the right major and career path based on your unique personality, interests, skills and values. Get started with Focus 2 Apply and see how it can guide your journey at NC State.

Marine Careers (<https://www.marinecareers.net/>)

Careers in Oceanography, Marine Science, & Marine Biology (<https://ocean.peterbrueggeman.com/career.html>)

Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (<https://www.aslo.org/>)