PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Globally and locally, rapidly changing ocean conditions pose significant challenges and opportunities to marine resource managers, policy makers and offshore ocean industries. To meet these challenges, trained science professionals are needed to better manage the health and sustainability of marine resources and inland waters.

The Master of Marine Studies (MMS) degree program offered by the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS) is designed to prepare college graduates and working professionals to be successful in a wide variety of agency, industry and private sector positions.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

Based at one of the premier Arctic ocean sciences programs in the nation, the MMS degree provides recent graduates and professionals with tools to better manage the sustainability of Alaska’s healthy oceans in the face of changing climate and increasing human impact. The program provides a thorough overview of marine biology and oceanography, sustainable use of ocean resources, and societal connections to ocean resources.

The MMS degree is designed to be relevant to those pursuing careers in a broad range of sectors, including (but not limited to) teaching, government policy, and industry.

HOW TO APPLY

Students are admitted on the basis of their ability and the capability of the program to meet their particular interests and needs. Requested application materials include:

- Statement of purpose
- Official Transcript
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores 55% or higher
- GPA 3.0 or higher
- TOEFL (international students)
- CV/Resume
- University Application
CURRICULUM

The MMS degree program includes topics such as marine ecology, organismal biology, ecosystem processes and oceanography. The curriculum consists of core courses in marine sciences, and electives spanning marine biology, oceanography, fisheries, statistics, biology and wildlife. Students considering an MMS degree should ideally have a background in marine sciences, ecology, biology, molecular biology or biochemistry.

The two-year degree program (30 credits) can be completed on campus, through video conferencing and online. In-state tuition rates are available for all online students.

Four of the following core courses (12 credits):

- MSL F610: Marine Biology
- MSL F620: Physical Oceanography
- MSL F630: Geological Oceanography
- MSL F640: Fisheries Oceanography
- MSL F650: Biological Oceanography
- MSL F660: Chemical Oceanography
- MSL F615: Physiology of Marine Organisms
- MSL F419: Concepts in Physical Oceanography

Sample electives and seminars (10 credits):

- Oceans and Global Change
- Oceanography, Fisheries and the Arctic
- Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems
- Professional Development
- Proposal Writing

All students will also complete a graduate project or literature review (6 credits) as well as a project or internship to develop practical experience (2 credits).