



COAST Professional Science Master's

Program Overview

UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science & Technology (SMAST) offers the COAST (Coastal and Ocean Administration, Science and Technology) Professional Science Master's (PSM) program. This unique program is designed to enable students to enter the workforce immediately as advanced marine science, engineering, and technology professionals. The COAST PSM is an excellent way for currently-employed individuals to broaden their knowledge of the marine sciences and technology along with the business practices in their field, while advancing their own careers.

The COAST PSM degree is conferred through the University of Massachusetts' system-wide Intercampus Marine Science program. This connection gives PSM students access to the resources and faculty of four campuses, and allows them to take courses elsewhere in the UMass system at UMass Dartmouth tuition rates.

Students are taught by highly accomplished faculty in the fields of marine science. SMAST faculty pursue cutting-edge research in biogeochemical cycling, coastal ecosystem dynamics and restoration, marine computational modeling, fisheries science and management, marine renewable energy, ocean observing/remote sensing, and ocean physics.

For a complete list of faculty and their areas of expertise, visit www.umassd.edu/smast/faculty.

Highlights

- Two-year program for students who wish to pursue a non-thesis degree that focuses on marine science and engineering management, policy, or law; program has a strong emphasis on writing and communication skills
- Flexible course structure, including online courses, allows students to attend the program on a part-time basis while working full time
- Students must complete three core courses (9 credits)
- Two of the three courses are chosen from among biological, chemical, geological, and physical oceanography core courses. The third is chosen from among offerings in marine policy and/or management, law, and economics
- Courses covering technology and quantitative skills are generally subject to student choice and advisor approval
- Internship required during the final summer of program and may be arranged at the student's current place of employment or elsewhere
- Students may also design a suite of courses that meet their specific interests and professional needs
- A program coordinator is available to help select courses under a variety of themes
- Post-graduate employment in marine-related fields may be arranged

At a Glance

The achievements of SMAST students include:

- Fulbright Fellowships
- Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships
- Nancy Sayles Day Foundation Research Award
- NOAA Sea Grant Fellowship in Population Dynamics
- Awards for presentations at the following:
 - ▶ American Fisheries Society
 - ▶ American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists
 - ▶ American Meteorological Society
 - ▶ International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
 - ▶ International Pectinid Workshop
 - ▶ National Shellfisheries Association

Degree Requirements

- Completion of 11 courses, plus an internship
- Courses include two core courses from among the four (4) science core courses in biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography
- An additional, third core course in marine policy and/or management areas (including law and economics) is also required.
- The remaining eight (8) elective courses include:
 - ▶ Four (4) science electives–12 credits
 - ▶ Two (2) elective "Plus" courses (includes such areas as communication, project management, and science leadership)–6 credits
 - ▶ Two (2) courses selected from science AND/OR "Plus" electives, chosen to fit the student's area of concentration–6 credits

For a complete list of course offerings, visit www.umassd.edu/smast/academics/courselist/.

Internship

Students are required to complete an internship (minimum 210 hours) related to their field of study. This may involve a project with a current employer, faculty advisor, or other professional activity. Internships may be paid or unpaid. In all cases, internships are subject to approval by the PSM program coordinator and the student's supervisor.

Application Requirements

Successful applicants will have met the following criteria:

- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of an undergraduate major in one of the basic scientific disciplines or engineering, or strong multidisciplinary training
- Completion of at least six semesters of coursework in the natural sciences, generally to include biology, chemistry, and/or physics
- Preparation in mathematics at least through integral calculus is strongly encouraged

Apply

Apply online by visiting www.umassd.edu/smast.

Contact Us

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