M.S. IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIETY

Curriculum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>The MES M.S. degree requires 30 total credits.</td>
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**Core Courses**

MES M.S. students are required to complete one (1) of the following:

- MES 608 Biometrics in Marine Science
- or RSM 612 Statistics for Marine Scientists

**Electives**

21

**Thesis Research**

6

MES 810 Master's Thesis

**Additional Requirements**

- RSM 700 Research Ethics
- MES Seminar
- Proposal Defense

Total Credit Hours 30

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1. Minimum of 24 course credits and 6 thesis credits.
   - All M.S. students are required to complete at least 12 course credits in MES.
   - A formal request for an exception to this rule can be submitted in writing to the Committee Chair, and any/all exceptions will be made at the discretion of the MES Academic Committee.

2. Course enrollment and scheduling is defined by the student and their Chair.
   - Students are affiliated with one or more of the MES tracks, and will be expected to adhere to all relevant academic requirements.

3. Students are expected to attend all MES student seminars.

4. All MES students are expected to compose a full proposal, including a thorough literature review, clearly outlined objectives, a summary of the significance of their proposed project (including broader impacts, if relevant), a detailed research plan, and a budget.
   - A proposal template will be provided, and all M.S. students are required to attend a proposal writing seminar during their second semester in residence.
   - Following the written proposal vetting process by the committee, students are required to formally defend their proposal. The purpose of the proposal defense is to ensure that each student possesses the requisite knowledge and expertise to successfully execute the proposed research project, as well as facilitate an open discussion regarding the stated objectives and experimental approach.
   - Students must submit and defend their proposal before the start of their fourth semester in residence.

**Mission**

The Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society (MES) fosters innovative, collaborative and multidisciplinary research and education centered on the conservation and sustainability of marine ecosystems and the services they provide to society.

**Goals**

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of a range of marine related disciplines, specifically relevant to their research (proposed and executed).
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills through the development and execution of an original research plan, including the application of appropriate methodologies.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas effectively and professionally, both in writing and orally.