

B.A./M.P.S. IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIETY

B.A. / M.P.S.

The Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society (<https://marine-ecosystems.rsmas.miami.edu/>) (MES), in cooperation with the Undergraduate Marine and Atmospheric Science Program (<https://undergraduate.rsmas.miami.edu/>), also offers a five-year B.A./M.P.S. (<https://undergraduate.rsmas.miami.edu/academics/majors/marine-affairs/>). Program in Marine Affairs. This program enables qualified students to earn a B.A. in Marine Affairs in four years with the opportunity to earn a Master of Professional Science (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/>) (M.P.S). with only one additional year.

Admission Requirements

Conditional acceptance to the M.P.S program is based on the student's GPA at the end of their sophomore year. Students must then take GRE exams and apply for acceptance to the graduate program at Rosenstiel during their junior year.

Prerequisites:

1. Underwater Archaeology applicants should refer to Dr. Hanselmann's Underwater Archeology Track Guide (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/dr-hanselmanns-underwater-archeology-track-guide.pdf)

Accepting applications for Fall 2020 admissions:

- July 25th, 2019 - July 20th, 2020 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
- July 25th, 2019 - June 1st, 2020 (International Applicants)

Accepting applications for Spring 2021 admissions:

- Now until December 1st, 2020 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
- Now until November 1st, 2020 (International Applicants)

An application to the MPS program consists of the following (fall & spring admissions only):

- Online *CollegeNet* application
- Transcripts from all past/present academic institutions (colleges and universities), including all study abroad and community colleges and, if applicable, a transcript evaluation report from an approved international credentialing agency (for non-U.S. academic institutions).
- Valid Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. NOTE: GRE requirement suspended for Fall 2020 admissions only due to COVID-19.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Valid TOEFL or IELTS scores (for international applicants)
- Personal statement (statement of purpose)

If admission to the MPS program is granted, it will be contingent upon receipt of all items listed above (including official transcripts and test scores) and the following for international applicants:

- *Statement of Financial Responsibility* Form (SFR) and corresponding bank letter
- Color copy of current visa (if available).
- Color copy of valid passport (must include picture page and barcode page)

Permanent Residents must provide a color copy of Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

Previous graduate and undergraduate scholastic performance, work and volunteer experience, valid test scores (GRE, TOEFL/IELTS), and the letters of recommendation are all considered in evaluating an applicant.

Transcript from U.S. Academic Institutions:

Please make sure you possess the required undergraduate coursework and/or degree before applying. Official transcripts must be mailed or e-mailed directly from the relevant academic institution (Office of the Registrar) to the MPS office. Our email is mps@rsmas.miami.edu; mailing address is available on the MPS website's Contact Us page. If an applicant is not able to submit an unofficial transcript with his/her application, the applicant may submit unofficial transcripts via email to mps@rsmas.miami.edu. Unofficial transcripts are accepted for review purposes only, not for admission. If admission to the MPS program is granted, it will be contingent upon receipt of all official records. Please be advised, official transcripts will only be accepted if they are sent to us directly from the academic institution. Transcripts sent by you or issued to you (even if they are in a sealed envelope) are not considered official.

Transcripts from Non-U.S. Academic Institutions:

All graduate applicants who received degrees or are currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program from a college or university outside the United States (except applicants to Law* and Nursing**) must submit official transcripts and diplomas (if available) from all colleges and universities to an approved international credentialing agency. Applicants attending a non-U.S. institution for non-credit must also submit academic records to an approved evaluation agency.

Transcripts in a language other than English must be provided in that language and must be accompanied by a certified English translation. International applicants must also submit a copy of his/her diploma in the official language of the country from which the degree was awarded and provide a certified English translation of the diploma. Submit these items to an approved international credentialing agency. Follow the specific instructions of the selected evaluation agency to request a **course-by-course evaluation with degree equivalency and grade point average (GPA) calculation**. Applicants must request that the evaluation report and copy of all the official documents used in the evaluation are sent directly from the approved evaluation agency to the MPS office mps@rsmas.miami.edu.

- *Josef Silny & Associates (JS&A), Inc, International Education Consultants*, is the preferred evaluation vendor for international applicants to the University of Miami due to their competitive prices and high-quality service. Click here for more information including the Application for Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials.
- Please note that international applicants are not required to use the services of JS&A. The international credential evaluation services of any approved vendor may be used. Click here to view a list of approved vendors.
- Please be sure the vendor sends your evaluation directly to mps@rsmas.miami.edu.
- Evaluation Fee - Applicants are responsible for the evaluation fee. Please note that failure to comply with these instructions may cause significant delays in the review and processing of your application, and therefore also significant delays in the processing of your I-20.

Letters of Recommendation:

Three (3) letters of recommendation are required for admissions consideration. Each applicant must request letters of recommendation from three (3) different references using the guidelines provided in the online application. Applications from CollegeNet may be submitted without letters of recommendation. However, an applicant's file will not be reviewed by Track Leaders until all required admissions materials (including letters of recommendation) are received by the MPS office. Upon completion of the application, your references will receive an e-mail from CollegeNet, requesting the online submission of the required documentation (questionnaire + letter of recommendation).

Academic references are ideal and highly preferred, but we will accept letters from employers and/or supervisors. Please do not request letters from friends, family, ministers, or coaches. If your references have trouble using the online submission portal, they may e-mail their letters (signed and on letterhead) to the MPS office at mps@rsmas.miami.edu. We cannot accept letters that are not signed. Letters sent by the applicant or forwarded to the MPS office by the applicant will not be accepted.

GRE:

Due to COVID-19, the GRE requirement is suspended for Fall 2020 admissions only.

The MPS office must receive your official Graduate Record Examination test (GRE <http://www.ets.org/gre>) scores directly from ETS. Please use institution code 7690 (department code) when submitting your request with ETS. This code indicates delivery of test scores to the RSMAS campus, home of the MPS office.

A minimum, combined score of 297 (Verbal + Quantitative only) is required for admissions consideration. Applicants must also complete the Analytical Writing section of the GRE. However, the Analytical Writing score will not be calculated into your combined score, nor will it be used for tuition waiver eligibility. To learn about our merit-based partial tuition waivers, please visit our Financing Your Education page.

TOEFL/IELTS (for Non-native English Speakers):

To prove language proficiency, students must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

- Paper Based TOEFL (PBT) - minimum score is 550
- Internet Based TOEFL (IBT) - minimum score is 80
- IELTS (Academic) - minimum score is 6.5

Please use institution code 2919 (no department code). This institution code is for the TOEFL only; please note that the GRE institution code is different (see above).

If English is *not* your native language, the TOEFL/IELTS requirement *may be waived* if you hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an academic institution within the United States or from one of the following English-speaking countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda

- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada (except Quebec)
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- Kitts and Nevis
- Lucia
- Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Kingdom

Intensive English Program (IEP)

The University of Miami’s Division of Continuing and International Education offers a fully-accredited Intensive English Program (IEP) to prepare individuals to understand and use English in a variety of academic, professional, and personal situations. Some of the services that IEP offers graduate students include an international teaching assistant training course, customized classes, LL.M. Intensive English, and volunteer opportunities.

Personal Statement (statement of purpose):

Please indicate your track of choice, and all relevant field, lab, and work experience (past and present) in your personal statement. Include your academic and professional goals, and how you envision the MPS program contributing to those goals. We strongly encourage you to include information and/or links to relevant publications, organizations, research projects, supervisors, collaborators, project results, and your role in relation to this.

MPS Mailing Address:

University of Miami
 Rosenstiel School Campus, MPS Office, Room S/A 132
 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
 Miami, FL 33149

Email: mps@rsmas.miami.edu

Website: <https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/index.html>

Phone: (305) 421-4340

Fax: (305) 421-4246

Curriculum Requirements

Students must follow the curriculum corresponding to their respective track in the MPS program. A list of courses (required and elective) are listed on each track page of the MPS website (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/>).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BA IN MARINE AFFAIRS (120 credit hours)		
Marine Affairs		

MSC 111	Introduction to Marine Science	3
MSC 112	Introduction to Marine Science Lab	1
MSC 217	Physical and Chemical Processes in Coastal Ecosystems	3
MSC 230		3
MSC 313	Coastal Law	3
or MSC 314	Ocean Law	
MSC 310		3
or MSC 340	Ocean Policy	
MSC 345	Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment	3
MSC 460	Spatial Applications in Marine Science	3
Select 9 credit hours of approved electives in Marine Affairs ¹		9
Other Required Courses		
BIL 150	General Biology ²	4
BIL 160	Evolution and Biodiversity ²	4
CHM 121	Principles of Chemistry ³	4
ENG 105	English Composition I	3
ENG 107	English Composition II: Science and Technology	3
or ENG 106	English Composition II	
ECO 211	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
GSC 110	The Earth System	
GSC 111	Earth System History	
MSC 424	Origin and Geology of the Galapagos Islands.	
Select one of the following:		3-4
MTH 108	Precalculus Mathematics II	
MTH 113	Finite Mathematics	
MTH 130	Introductory Calculus	
MTH 140	Calculus Concepts with Foundations A	
MTH 161	Calculus I	
or MTH 171	Calculus I	
Select one of the following:		3-4
MSC 204	Environmental Statistics	
CSC 120	Computer Programming I	
MTH 224	Introduction to Probability and Statistics	
MSC 203	Foundations of Computational Marine Science	
Courses in approved minor		15
Electives		
Arts and Humanities Cognate Courses		9
Additional Electives		35
MPS REQUIREMENTS		30-32
See specific MPS track curriculum for course listing.		
Total Credit Hours		150-152

¹ At least 6 of which must be at the 300-level or higher. MSC 204 (<http://bulletin.miami.edu/search/?P=MSC%20204>) does not satisfy the MSC elective requirement but does satisfy the Statistics requirement. With the approval of the MPS advisor (Track Leader), students in MPS may enroll a different graduate-level course if statistics was successfully completed and passed at the undergraduate level. Completion of graduate-level statistics is a requirement for select tracks in the MPS program.

² General Biology BIL 150 (<http://bulletin.miami.edu/search/?P=BIL%20150>) and Evolution and Biodiversity BIL 160 (<http://bulletin.miami.edu/search/?P=BIL%20160>) must be passed with a grade of "C-" or higher.

³ Chemistry for the Biosciences must be passed with a grade of "C-" or higher.

- * 600-level courses offered through the graduate Marine Ecosystems and Society programs at the Rosenstiel School may be taken by Junior or Senior students with permission:

Application for Undergraduates to Take a Graduate Course

Click here (<https://www.grad.miami.edu/policies-and-forms/forms/application-for-undergraduates-to-take-a-graduate-course-revised-mar-2020.pdf>) to download the form.

University of Miami undergraduate students within 30 credits of meeting the requirements for the baccalaureate degree may take and receive credit for graduate courses, while completing the requirements for the baccalaureate degree. No more than six (6) graduate credits may be taken in one semester, and no more than a total of twelve (12) graduate credits may be taken as an undergraduate. The student should be enrolled in at least 12 undergraduate credits each semester to avoid eligibility issues for some aid programs. Students may take no more than 15 credit hours of combined undergraduate and graduate credits. Admission to take graduate courses does not automatically admit the student to a graduate degree program at the University of Miami. The graduate credits earned may NOT be used to meet undergraduate graduation requirements or be used to meet the 120 credit hour requirements at the University of Miami.

Undergraduate students who request to take graduate coursework must complete the *Application for Undergraduates to Take a Graduate Course* and then email the completed form and a completed drop/add form (https://www.grad.miami.edu/policies-and-forms/forms/drop-add-form_9-25-2018.pdf) to the Graduate School, at gradforms@miami.edu, for final approval. Once the form is signed by the Graduate School representative, the student will receive it signed via email. The student then must send that form and the associated drop/add form to the Office of the Registrar, at registrar@miami.edu, for processing.

*For forms on fellowships and grants, please visit the Financial Aid and Funding Opportunities (<https://www.grad.miami.edu/costs-and-funding/financial-aid-and-funding-opportunities/internal-fellowships-and-scholarships/>) section under the *Costs & Funding* tab.

Sample Plan of Study

Students must follow the curriculum corresponding to their respective track in the MPS program. A list of courses (required and elective) are listed on each track page of the MPS website (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/>).

Freshman Year		Credit Hours
Fall		
MSC 111	Introduction to Marine Science	3
MSC 112	Introduction to Marine Science Lab	1
CHM 121	Principles of Chemistry	4
MTH 113	Finite Mathematics	3
ENG 105	English Composition I	3
Minor Course #1		3
Credit Hours		17
Spring		
BIL 150	General Biology	4
GSC 110	The Earth System	4
ENG 107	English Composition II: Science and Technology	3
ECO 211	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Credit Hours		14
Sophomore Year		
Fall		
BIL 160	Evolution and Biodiversity	4
MSC 230		3
MSC 204	Environmental Statistics	3
Minor Course #2		3
HUM Course #1		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
MSC 217	Physical and Chemical Processes in Coastal Ecosystems	3
MSC Course		3
Minor Course #3		3
HUM Course #2		3
Elective #1		3
Credit Hours		15

Junior Year			
Fall			
MSC 313	Coastal Law		3
MSC Course			3
Elective #2			3
Elective #3			3
HUM Course #3			3
Credit Hours			15
Spring			
MSC 345	Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment		3
Minor Course #4			3
Elective #4			3
Elective #5			3
Elective #6			3
Credit Hours			15
Senior Year			
Fall			
MSC 340	Ocean Policy		3
MSC Course			3
Minor Course #5			3
Elective #7			3
Elective #8			3
Credit Hours			15
Spring			
MSC 460	Spatial Applications in Marine Science		3
Elective #9			3
Elective #10			3
Elective #11			3
Elective #12			2
Credit Hours			14
Year One			
Fall			
MPS Graduate Coursework			12-14
Credit Hours			12-14
Spring			
MPS Graduate Coursework			12
Credit Hours			12
Summer			
MPS Graduate Coursework			6
Credit Hours			6
Total Credit Hours			151-153