

Core Curriculum (13-14 Credits)

Students must pass all Batten School & VIMS core courses with a B- or better.

Fundamental Core (6 credits)

Choose three courses from the following options:

- MSCI 501A – Physical Oceanography (2)
- MSCI 501B – Chemical Oceanography (2)
- MSCI 501C – Marine Geology (2)
- MSCI 501D – Biological Oceanography (2)
- MSCI 501E – Aquatic Health (2)
- MSCI 501F – Fisheries Science (2)
- MSCI 521 – Adv. Marine Geology (3)

(in lieu of MSCI 501C, but not both)

Interdisciplinary Core (2 credits)

- MSCI 503 – Interdisciplinary Research in Estuarine & Coastal Systems (2)

Quantitative Core (3 credits)

Choose one course from the following options:

- MSCI 504 – Fundamentals of Statistical Methods & Data Analysis (3)
- MSCI 554 – Princ of Numerical Computing (3)
- MSCI 556 – Statistics & Data Science (3)

Science Communication Core (2-3 credits)

Complete MSCI 505 during first year, preferably in semester of matriculation:

- MSCI 505 – Fundamentals of Science Communication (1), **and**

Choose one course from the following options:

- MSCI 506 – Scientific Communication Skills (2)
- MSCI 508 – College Science Teaching (1)
- MSCI 509 – Communicating Science to Diverse Audiences (2)
- MSCI 548 – Scientific Illustration (1)

Batten School & VIMS Electives (8-9 Credits)

Any Batten School & VIMS grad course ≥ MSCI 500 (except courses used to fulfill the core curriculum)

Internship (4 Credits)

The internship provides the opportunity for experiential learning with an organization that is engaged in marine or environmental science-oriented program or activities.

- MSCI 597 – Internship (4)

Capstone (6 Credits)

The capstone is an independent research project that is designed to apply integrated marine science knowledge to an issue in management, policy, law, business, or education. Projects are co-advised by a Batten School & VIMS faculty member and an individual from the relevant professional field.

- MSCI 598 – Capstone (2-6)

Expanding Your Curricular Options

With the permission of the M.A. Program Director and Batten School & VIMS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, up to six credit hours of relevant non-Batten School & VIMS graduate-level coursework, including courses on the Williamsburg campus or through cross-registration agreements with other institutions (e.g., Old Dominion University), may be counted as electives toward the degree.

M.A. in Marine Science

32 Credit Hours

Course Sequencing Suggestions – Based on Fall Matriculation, 24-Month Timeline

Full-time enrollment requires at least 9 credit hours during fall or spring.

Year 1 – Fall Semester

- Fundamentals – 1 course (2-3 cr)
- Quantitative – 1 course (3 cr)
- MSCI 505 (1 cr)
- Electives (2-3 cr)

Year 1 – Spring Semester

- Fundamentals – 2 courses (4 cr)
- MSCI 503 (2 cr)
- Science Communications (2 cr)
- Electives (1 cr)

Year 2 – Fall Semester

- MSCI 597 (4 cr)
- MSCI 598 (2 cr)
- Electives (3 cr)

Year 2 – Spring Semester

- MSCI 598 (4 cr)
- Electives (0-2 cr)

Note: May need additional coursework (3-5 cr) to maintain full-time enrollment.

Course Sequencing Suggestions – Based on Fall Matriculation, 18-Month Timeline

Full-time enrollment requires at least 9 credit hours during fall or spring.

Year 1 – Fall Semester

- Fundamentals – 2 courses (4-5 cr)
- Quantitative – 1 course (3 cr)
- MSCI 505 (1 cr)
- Electives (2 cr)

Year 1 – Spring Semester

- Fundamentals – 1 course (2 cr)
- MSCI 503 (2 cr)
- Science Communications (2 cr)
- Electives (4 cr)

Year 2 – Fall Semester

- MSCI 597 (4 cr)
- MSCI 598 (6 cr)
- Electives (1-2 cr)