MARINE SCIENCE/GEOLOGY MAJOR, BS

Students pursuing a marine science degree typically demonstrate a strong interest in some aspect of the marine environment and in the sciences in general. High school preparation should include a solid background in mathematics and introductory biology and/or chemistry.

Department of Biological Sciences
1324 Science and Engineering Complex
bsc.ua.edu
marinescience@as.ua.edu
Department of Geological Sciences
2003 Bevill Building
geo.ua.edu
geology@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare both majors no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

During the summer semester, a large suite of marine science courses is offered at the Dauphin Island campus of the Alabama Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium.

Students earning the bachelor of science (BS) degree in marine science/geology must complete all university, college and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following double major requirements and other sufficient credits to total 128 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title		Hours
Select one of the following:		4
BSC 114 & BSC 115	Principles Of Biology I and Laboratory Biology I	
BSC 118	Honors General Biology I	
Select one of the following:		4
BSC 116 & BSC 117	Principles Biology II and Biology II Laboratory	
BSC 120	Honors Gen Biology II	
CH 101 or	General Chemistry	4
CH 117	Honors General Chemistry	
CH 102 or	General Chemistry	4
CH 118	Honors General Chemistry	
GEO 101	The Dynamic Earth	4
GEO 102	The Earth Through Time	4
GEO 210	Mineralogy	4
GEO 314	Ign. & Meta. Petrology	4
GEO 365	Structural Geology	3
GEO 367	Sedimentology/Stratigraphy	4
GEO 495	Field Geology	6
Select two of the following:		6
GEO 355	Invertebrate Paleontology	
GEO 369	Introduction Geophysics	
GEO 470	Introduction to Geochemistry	
GEO electives		6
MS 304	Marine Geology	4
MS 306	Marine Biology	4
MS 448	Intro Oceanography	4
MS elective 300 or 400 level (Consult the Marine Science coordinator for appropriate MS electives)		4
Select one of the following:		4
PH 101	General Physics I	
PH 105	General Physics W/Calc I	
PH 125	Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus	
Select one of the following:		4
PH 102	General Physics II	
PH 106	General Physics W/Calc II	
PH 126	Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus II	
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	81
Ancillary Courses		
Grades in ancillary courses are not computed in the major GPA. The major in marine science/geology requires the successful completion of the following courses outside the major:		
MATH 125 or	Calculus I	4
MATH 145	Honors Calculus I	
MATH 126 or	Calculus II	4
MATH 146	Honors Calculus II	
ST 260	Statistical Data Analysis	3
Total Hours		**92**

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in each major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in each major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

Marine science/chemistry does not require a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Students are not permitted to count the same required major courses toward completion of a second major or minor. Students may count required ancillary courses for one major toward the requirements of another major. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

A dual major in marine science and biology, chemistry, or geology prepares students for a wide variety of employment opportunities in environmentally related fields, industries concerning utilization of marine resources, biotechnology, policy, and education.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Recent graduates have worked in entry-level positions in government agencies, ecotourism (e.g., SCUBA divemasters, whale or dolphin watching boats), and K-12 education. A large number of graduates enter professional school (e.g., medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy) or graduate school (master's degree, Doctor of Philosophy [Ph.D.]).

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Marine biologist, marine geologist, conservation specialist, laboratory technician, teacher, professor, aquaculture industry specialist, oceanographer, environmental consultant, marine animal veterinarian

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center