

MARINE SCIENCES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

This program provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduates to pursue their interests in the study of the oceans and make more informed decisions about future graduate studies in marine sciences. Although Penn State does not award degrees in this field, a number of faculty pursue research interests in the marine sciences, and a varied selection of undergraduate courses in the marine sciences is available. The student can either complete the requirements for the minor at University Park (UP) or participate in an intensive semester-long oceanography experience at the Southampton, UK, Oceanography Centre (SOC) through education abroad:

The latter option may be of particular interest to students from non-UP locations. SOC has designed a program for PSU students that provides abundant opportunity to participate in shipboard oceanographic research, including a week of day-cruises in the spring and a 2-week series of cruises in June. Students who elect to pursue that minor at UP have the opportunity to receive training as scientific scuba divers through Penn State's Science Diving Program and participate in a number of other field experiences in the marine sciences.

MARINE SCIENCES MINOR: The Marine Sciences Committee is authorized to award a minor certificate to any undergraduate student regularly enrolled in a degree program at the University who, in addition to satisfying the degree requirements of his or her baccalaureate major, satisfies the requirements for the Marine Sciences minor. The completion of the minor is reflected by a formal notation on the student's official record at the time of graduation.

What is Marine Sciences?

Undergraduate students in the marine science minor pursue their interests in the study of the oceans across a broad range of disciplines including marine biology/ecology, chemical oceanography/marine chemistry, marine geosciences, and meteorology. Marine Scientists often work at the interface of these disciplines to study the physical, chemical and biological processes that govern oceans and marine life from the scale of entire ocean basins to the fate of microscopic particles. Applications of this research range from food and energy security to defense. Penn State has a group of world-class faculty pursuing research interests from the coastal zones to the deep sea and from the tropics to the polar regions. An important goal of Penn State marine scientists is to study the impacts of global change and ocean exploration on marine ecosystems.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You have an interest in the oceans and marine life and are considering a career in marine science.
- You enjoy laboratory and field-work and/or science diving.
- You are interested in studying abroad.