

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARINE BIOLOGY

The Marine Biology graduate program provides training in the marine biological sciences and draws on the expertise of faculty members in multiple marine and coastal-related fields.

Additional Requirements

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Residence

In partial fulfillment of the residence requirement for the degree of Master of Science, the student must complete 9 resident credit hours during one regular semester or one 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A minimum of 1 credit hour must be in a non-distance education delivery mode. Semesters during which the student is enrolled in all distance education coursework will not count toward fulfillment of the residence requirement. Upon recommendation of the student's advisory committee, department head or Chair of the Interdisciplinary Program, if appropriate, and with approval of the Graduate and Professional School, a student may be granted exemption from this requirement. Such a petition, however, must be approved prior to the student's registration for the final 9 credit hours of required coursework.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, students are required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of their employment to the Graduate and Professional School.

See Residence Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

Continuous Registration

A student in the thesis option of the Master of Science program who has completed all coursework on an approved degree plan other than 691 (Research) is required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

See Continuous Registration Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#registrationandacademicstatustext>).

Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within a period of seven consecutive years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until seven years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework which is more than seven

calendar years old at the time of the final examination (oral or written) may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

A student who has chosen the thesis option must have the final corrected copies of the thesis cleared by the Graduate and Professional School within one year of the semester in which the final exam is taken, or a final exam exemption petition was approved. Exams taken in between terms will expire at the end of the term that ended prior to the exam. For example, a final exam taken and passed during the Fall 2022 semester will expire at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. A final exam taken in the time between the Summer and Fall 2022 semesters will expire at the end of the Summer 2023 semester.

Foreign Languages

No specific language requirement exists for the Master of Science degree.

Application for Degree

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.

Licensing Program Requirements

Course Requirements for all Texas A&M Maritime Academy Third Mate Licensing Programs

Through the Texas A&M Maritime Academy, TAMUG offers license training for Midshipmen leading to a Third Mates' License (Unlimited Tonnage, Un limited Oceans). The curriculum for Marine Biology - LO, Marine Sciences - LO and Marine Transportation include this training. All graduate programs offered by TAMUG may include this license training as an option. Each degree candidate will be required to fulfill the existing university degree requirements plus all U.S. Coast Guard License Option additional requirements to complete STCW Training Record Book:

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Shoreside Courses:		
MART 103	Basic Safety and Lifeboatman Training	3
MART 115	Seamanship I	3
MART 201	Vessel Structure and Ship Knowledge	3
MART 202	Ship Stability and Trim	3
MART 204	Terrestrial Navigation I	3
MART 208	Maritime Meteorology	3
MART 210	Integrated Navigation I: RADAR/ARPA/ECDIS	4
MART 212	Marine Dry Cargo Operations	3
MART 215	Seamanship II	3
MART 303	Celestial Navigation	3
MART 307	Global Maritime Distress Safety System	3
MART 310	Integrated Navigation II: Electronic Navigation	2
MART 313	Marine Liquid Cargo Operations	3
MART 321	Navigation Rules - International and Inland	2
MART 410	Bridge Resource Management	2

MART 498	Maritime Medical Care Provider	2
NVSC 200	Naval Science for the Merchant Marine Officer	3
Cruise Coursework:		
MART 200	Deck Sea Training I: Basic Communications, Navigation and Seamanship	4
MART 300	Deck Sea Training II: Intermediate Communications, Navigation and Seamanship	4
	or MART 350 or Deck Sea Training II – Commercial Internship	
MART 400	Deck Sea Training III: Advanced Communications, Navigation and Seamanship	4

Courses complete a Training Record Book which includes USCG required Basic Safety Training, Ratings Performing a Navigational Watch, First Aid Provider, and Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch. All STCW related courses must be completed with a C or better to meet license standards. Furthermore, the Midshipmen are required to complete mandatory sea service, participate in the USCG approved Corps of Midshipmen License Option Program, complete a degree, and pass license examination administered by the USCG. Candidates will also have to follow all regulations set forth in 46 CFR I 1.910 and 46 CFR 310, STCW as amended, and USCG Texas A&M Maritime Academy approved Standard Operating Procedure and any other regulations required by Texas A&M Maritime Academy License Option programs.

This degree requires full participation in the Texas A&M University Maritime Academy Corps of Cadets as a qualified License Option cadet. Refer to the University catalog section for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy for detailed requirements. In addition to the academic requirements outlined here, the cadet must also complete the following requirements to receive the degree:

- Successfully complete required sea service and minimum training cruise requirements.
- Pass a comprehensive professional examination (either the Third Mate Unlimited- Oceans or Third Assistant Engineering Unlimited) administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).
- Successfully complete all competencies required by the International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

Note: STCW competency certifications expire 5 years after completion. If the cadet does not complete the degree within that time period, the cadet will be required to revalidate the expired competency prior to graduation.