

Dear Marine Science Scholars,

August 5, 2021

As summer draws to a close, the MSS program is getting nearer, and we wanted to provide more information about the MACS 110 course and some reminders. We are working to prepare a great experience; and we are looking forward to getting to know you. In this letter, we have more information about logistics, and we will be requesting some information to help us make things run smoothly. Please read through this document carefully.

### Survey

Please fill out the [Student Survey by Monday, August 23](#). It includes information about dietary needs, transportation at the start and finish of your stay, and a chance for you to let us know of any other special needs you may have during your stay at the Shannon Point Marine Lab. If you have already supplied us information via email, please make sure to provide this information again (with any updates) in this survey.

### Transportation

Arrivals: Please let us know in the survey when you will be arriving on September 12, and if you will need a ride from the [Airporter](#) shuttle stop. Plan to make reservations for the shuttle if you are using it and arrive during the check-in time if possible. The schedule for September 12 is as follows:

- 12:00 - 4:00 PM: Check in at SPMC-residential facilities (Dorms) for housing assignments
- 4:00 PM: MACS 110 Course Introductions (Sulkin Commons – Flora building)
- 6:00 PM: Welcome dinner (Dining Commons building)

In the event you encounter travel delays please contact Emily Musenbrock the graduate student mentor, on her cell phone (219-309-7182)

Departures: Move in times for campus dorms have been reserved for everyone in the middle of the day on Saturday, September 18. Campus housing will let us know specific times for each student when they are available. We will arrange transportation to campus for all students who need it. Please let us know in the survey if you need a lift to campus, or if you have your own transportation arranged. If you are an honors student and planning to attend the honors program event at Larrabee state park, please include that information as well and indicate if you need transportation. Parents are also welcome to pick up students on Saturday morning at the lab, or students can drive themselves if they have a vehicle.

### COVID

Western is planning for in-person courses in the fall, including MACS 110. Western requires all students and employees to be fully vaccinated. Please report your vaccination status as soon as possible. You can take a picture of your card once you have gotten both doses of either Pfizer or Moderna, or the single shot of J&J. You can find more information and submit your documentation at the student health portal [here](#). Western is also requiring that everyone **must be masked at all times when indoors**. This includes all indoor public spaces and when inside WWU transportation. The only exceptions to this requirement are when individuals are in an office or vehicle alone, are in gatherings where all individuals are vaccinated, or students inside their own room in a university residence. **Please pack enough masks that securely cover your mouth and nose for your use during the week**. Further information about COVID procedures is available here: <https://www.wvu.edu/coronavirus>

## Housing and Meals

Dorms at SPMC can hold up to three students per room, and each bathroom is shared by two rooms. We intend to assign two students to each room, and each bathroom (pair of rooms) will be shared by students of the same gender. Please see the attached packing list for items you should bring along. Mainly you will need school supplies, clothing and shoes appropriate for lab and field work. You do not need to bring bedding, food, utensils etc.... All meals will be provided during your stay. Don't forget to let us know about dietary needs in the student survey. There is a kitchen and common area at the dorms and if you want to bring snacks or special food items, you are welcome to do so. Meals may be served either at the dorm/common area or in the main lab building. It is a 5–10-minute walk from the dorms to the main part of the campus at the lab.

## Friday BBQ

Parents or other family members are invited to join us for a BBQ dinner at the picnic area of Washington Park in Anacortes at 5:30 pm on Friday, September 17. If your family members plan to attend, please have them RSVP to your MSSP Peer Mentor, Amirah Casey [caseya3@wwu.edu](mailto:caseya3@wwu.edu) by Wednesday, September 15. Potluck items are welcome, but not required.

## Instructors

Your lead instructor is [Dr. Jim Cooper](#). You will also interact with a peer mentor, Amirah Casey (part of the first cohort in the Marine and Coastal Science Major), and a graduate student mentor, Emily Musenbrock. Amirah and Emily will be living in the dorms during your stay at SPMC.


## Final Reminders

Please fill out the [Student Survey](#) ASAP, and also document your COVID vaccine [here](#). Don't forget to pack some masks! We will have more information for you shortly, including a schedule of your time during the week at Shannon Point. Remember you will also be engaging in Saturday field trips during the quarter to round out the experiential aspects of MACS 110.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. The [MACSadvicing@wwu.edu](mailto:MACSadvicing@wwu.edu) is the best email to use going forward.

This letter and all other MSS information are also available for your reference on the [MACS/MSS website](#).

We are looking forward to meeting you on September 12!



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