



MAKE WAVES.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
MARINE AND
COASTAL SCIENCE

Sample Student Schedules



MARINE AND
COASTAL
SCIENCE



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

B.S. IN MARINE AND COASTAL SCIENCE

The B.S. in Marine and Coastal Science (MACS) is a cohort-based, interdisciplinary, and experiential program designed to provide students with the opportunity to engage in coastal and marine-focused research. Active learning experiences help students develop into confident, thoughtful, ethical scientists who are ready to address the growing challenges affecting marine and coastal environments. Each year, a new cohort of students begins the program, engaging in hands-on research and learning experiences in and around the Salish Sea, with opportunities for focused, residential study at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center (SPMC) in Anacortes, WA.

We accept students into the major once per year: The application deadline is January 15th. Before applying to the major, students must complete four of our required preparatory courses (BIOL 204, CHEM 161, CHEM 162, CHEM 163, GEOL 211, MATH 124, MATH 125, PHYS 161) and be on track to complete the remaining four by the end of the academic year in which they apply. Students planning to apply winter 2024 should refer to the MACS website for details on which specific courses they need to complete before applying. We accept 30 students into the major per year to ensure that class sizes are kept small.

Students enroll in MACS 210 (Introduction to Marine and Coastal Science Research) in spring quarter of the year they are admitted into the major. MACS 210 requires a 1 week residential stay at SPMC over spring break (not required for students who participated in the Marine Science Distinguished Scholars program). Students will start the major core series the academic year following their admittance into MACS, beginning with MACS 301 (Marine Geological Processes) in fall quarter, followed by MACS 302 (Marine Chemical Processes) and 303 (Marine Ecological Processes) in winter and spring quarters, respectively. Students can choose to take MACS 304 (Marine Physical Processes) either fall quarter of their first or second year in MACS. Students flesh out their degree program through the remaining required courses, including MACS 310 (Marine Science and Society), ESCI/BIOL 340 (Biostatistics), and either completion of the Biology (BIOL 205 and 206) or Physics (PHYS 162 and 163) series. Students will complete their MACS degree with 24 credits of MACS elective courses and a capstone project (MACS 493/494/495 and MACS 496).

Please refer to the example course schedules on the following pages for suggested timelines for completing the preparatory and major courses for the MACS degree. Each student's schedule will vary. We also welcome running start and transfer students. Please contact macsadvicing@wwu.edu to set up an advising appointment and get an individualized class schedule.



SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULES

Sample schedule for a student who tests/places into Math 112 and completes the Biology series.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
YEAR 1	MATH 112 - Functions & Algebraic Methods GUR - General University Requirement Course GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 114 - Precalculus I GEOL 211 - Physical Geology GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 115 - Precalculus II CHEM 161 - General Chemistry I GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 2	MATH 124 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry I CHEM 162 - General Chemistry II GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 125 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry II PHYS 161 - Physics with Calculus I GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 210 - Intro to Marine & Coastal Sci. Res. MACS 399 - MACS Speaker Series CHEM 163 - General Chemistry III BIOL 204 - Intro to Evolution, Ecol., & Biodiv.
YEAR 3	MACS 301 - Marine Geological Processes BIOL 205 - Intro to Cellular & Molecular Biology GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 302 - Marine Chemical Processes MACS 310 - Marine Science & Society BIOL 206 - Intro to Organismal Biology	MACS 303 - Marine Ecological Processes MACS Elective ESCI/BIOL 340 - Biostatistics
YEAR 4	MACS 494 - Independent Research Project MACS 304 - Marine Physical Processes GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS Elective MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 496 - Communicating Marine Science MACS Elective MACS Elective

Sample schedule for a student who tests/places into Math 114 and completes the Physics series.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
YEAR 1	MATH 114 - Precalculus I GEOL 211 - Physical Geology GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 115 - Precalculus II CHEM 161 - General Chemistry I GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 124 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry I CHEM 162 - General Chemistry II GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 2	MATH 125 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry II CHEM 163 - General Chemistry III GUR - General University Requirement Course	BIOL 204 - Intro to Evolution, Ecol., & Biodiversity PHYS 161 - Physics with Calculus I GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 210 - Intro to Marine & Coastal Sci. Res. MACS 399 - MACS Speaker Series PHYS 162 - Physics with Calculus II GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 3	MACS 301 - Marine Geological Processes PHYS 163 - Physics with Calculus III MACS Elective	MACS 302 - Marine Chemical Processes MACS 310 - Marine Science & Society ESCI/BIOL 340 - Biostatistics	MACS 303 - Marine Ecological Processes MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 4	MACS 304 - Marine Physical Processes MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 493 - Advanced MACS Research MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 496 - Communicating Marine Science MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course



Sample schedule for a student who tests/places into Math 118 and completes the Biology series.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
YEAR 1	MATH 118 - Accelerated Precalculus CHEM 161 - General Chemistry I GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 124 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry I CHEM 162 - General Chemistry II GUR - General University Requirement Course	MATH 125 - Calculus & Analytic Geometry II CHEM 163 - General Chemistry III GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 2	GEOL 211 - Physical Geology BIOL 204 - Intro to Evolution, Ecol., & Biodiversity GUR - General University Requirement Course	PHYS 161 - Physics with Calculus I BIOL 205 - Intro to Cellular & Molecular Biology GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 210 - Intro to Marine & Coastal Sci. Res. MACS 399 - MACS Speaker Series BIOL 206 - Intro to Organismal Biology GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 3	MACS 301 - Marine Geological Processes MACS 304 - Marine Physical Processes GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 302 - Marine Chemical Processes MACS 310 - Marine Science & Society ESCI/BIOL 340 - Biostatistics	MACS 303 - Marine Ecological Processes MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course
YEAR 4	MACS Elective MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 495 - Professional Work Experience in MACS MACS Elective GUR - General University Requirement Course	MACS 496 - Communicating Marine Science MACS Elective MACS Elective



Marine and Coastal Science

Address: 516 High St, MS 4042, Bellingham, WA 98225

Email: macs@wwu.edu; macsadvicing@wwu.edu

Website: <https://marine.wwu.edu>

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