



This course plan is a recommended sequence for this major. Courses designated as critical (!) may have a deadline for completion and/or affect time to graduation. Please see the Program Notes section for details regarding “critical courses” for this particular Program of Study.

| Critical | Course Subject and Title | Credit Hours | Min. Grade ¹ | Major GPA ² | Code | Prerequisites | Notes |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|-------|
| Semester One (15 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| ! | MSCI 101 The Ocean Environment | 4 | C | | PR | | |
| ! | MATH 141 Calculus I ³ | 4 | C | | CC-ARP | Math 115 <i>or</i> Math placement test score | |
| ! | CHEM 111 & 111L – General Chemistry I | 4 | C | | CC-SCI | Math 115 <i>or</i> Math placement test score | |
| | UNIV 101 The Student in the University <i>or</i> Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | PR/CC | | |
| Semester Two (18 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| ! | ENGL 101 Critical Reading and Composition | 3 | C | | CC-CMW | | |
| ! | MSCI 102 The Living Ocean | 4 | C | | PR | | |
| ! | MATH 142 Calculus II | 4 | C | | CC-ARP | MATH 141 | |
| ! | CHEM 112 & 112L – General Chemistry II | 4 | C | | CC-SCI | CHEM 111 <i>or</i> 141 <i>and</i> MATH 115 <i>or</i> higher math | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ <i>or</i> other Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC-GFL | | |
| Semester Three (18 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| ! | ENGL 102 Rhetoric and Composition | 3 | C | | CC-CMW CC-INF | | |
| | MSCI 311 Biology of Marine Organisms | 4 | C | | MR/CC-INT | MSCI 102 <i>or</i> BIOL 101 | |
| ! | PHYS 201 & 201L – General Physics I <i>or</i> PHYS 211 & 211L – Essentials of Physics I | 4 | C | | PR | MATH 115 <i>or</i> 122 <i>or</i> equiv. (<i>PHYS 201 only</i>); MATH 141 (<i>PHYS 211 only</i>) | |
| | GEOL 101 Introduction to the Earth <i>or</i> GEOL 103 Environment of the Earth <i>or</i> GEOL 201 Observing the Earth | 4 | C | | PR | | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ <i>or</i> other Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC-GFL | | |
| Semester Four (18-19 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| | MSCI 313 The Chemistry of the Sea | 4 | C | | MR/CC-INT | MSCI 101, CHEM 111, CHEM 112 (or co-req), & MATH 141 | |
| | MSCI 314 Physical Oceanography | 4 | C | | MR/CC-INT | MSCI 101, MATH 141, & PHYS 201 <i>or</i> 211 | |
| ! | PHYS 202 & 202L – General Physics II <i>or</i> PHYS 212 & 212L – Essentials of Physics II ⁶ | 4-5 | C | | PR | PHYS 201 (<i>PHYS 202 only</i>); PHYS 211 <i>and</i> MATH 142 (<i>PHYS 212 only</i>) | |
| | History ⁷ | 3 | | | CR | | |
| | Foreign language ⁵ <i>or</i> Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CR/CC | | |
| Semester Five (17 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| | GEOL 302 Rocks and Minerals | 4 | C | | MR | GEOL 101, 103, or 201 | |
| | GEOL 305 Earth Sys. through Time (<i>fall only</i>) <i>or</i> GEOL 335 Processes of Global Environ. Change (<i>spring only and cross-listed MSCI 335</i>) | 4 | C | | MR | | |
| | CSC 102 General Applications Programming ⁸ | 3 | C | | CR | | |
| | Humanities or Fine Arts | 3 | | | CR | | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC | | |
| Semester Six (16-17 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| | GEOL 315 Surface & Near Surface Proc. (<i>spring only</i>) <i>or</i> GEOL 325 Stratigraphy & Sedimentary Basins (<i>fall only</i>) | 4 | C | | MR | PHYS 201 <i>or</i> 211 (<i>GEOL 315 only</i>); GEOL 302 (<i>GEOL 325 only</i>) | |
| | MSCI Elective (<i>300-level and above</i>) ⁹ | 3-4 | C | | MR | See course description in Bulletin . | |
| | STAT 515 Statistical Methods I ⁸ | 3 | C | | CR | MATH 141; <i>or</i> both MATH 111 <i>or</i> higher <i>and</i> any statistics course | |
| | Social Science | 3 | | | CR | | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ | 3 | | | CC | | |
| Summer (0-4 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| | MSCI 460 <i>or</i> other preapproved 3-wk field experience ¹⁰ | 0-4 | | | MR | MSCI 311, 313, & 314 | |
| Semester Seven (15-16 Credit Hours) | | | | | | | |
| | Geological-Oceanography Elective (<i>300-level and above</i>) | 3-4 | C | | MR | See course description in Bulletin . | |
| | MSCI Elective (<i>300-level and above</i>) ⁹ | 3-4 | C | | MR | See course description in Bulletin . | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ <i>or</i> Approved Elective ¹¹ | 3 | | | CC/PR | | |
| | Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ <i>or</i> Approved Elective ¹¹ | 3 | | | CC/PR | | |
| | Approved Elective ¹¹ | 3 | | | PR | | |

| Semester Eight (13-14 Credit Hours) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----|---|--|----|-------------------------------------|
| | MSCI 505 Senior Seminar | 1 | C | | MR | |
| | MSCI Elective (300-level and above) ⁹ –only if needed to meet MSCI major requirements ¹⁰ | 3-4 | C | | MR | See course description in Bulletin. |
| | Approved Elective ¹¹ (based upon hours needed to graduate) | 9 | | | PR | |

Graduation Requirements Summary

| Minimum Total Hours | Major Requirements Hours | College & Program Requirements Hours | Carolina Core Hours | Minimum Overall GPA |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 128 | 36 | 47-59 | 34-46 | 2.000 |

- Regardless of individual course grades, students must maintain a minimum 2.000 cumulative USC/overall GPA.
- Some colleges require a minimum GPA for major courses. Courses indicated below are included in the major GPA for this program of study.
- Students who place into MATH 115 will be required to successfully complete it before taking MATH 141. MATH 115 can be used as an approved elective. Students who start with MATH 115 should use the following sequence for the first three semesters:

| Semester One | Semester Two | Semester Three |
|---|--|--|
| ENGL 101 | ENGL 102 | MSCI 311 |
| MSCI 101 | MSCI 102 | MATH 142 |
| MATH 115 | MATH 141 | CHEM 112 & 112L |
| History | CHEM 111 & 111L | PHYS 201 & 201L or PHYS 211 & 211L |
| UNIV 101 or other Carolina Core Requirement | Foreign Language or other Carolina Core Req. | Foreign language or other Carolina Core Req. |

- The [Carolina Core](#) provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
- Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the 122 course through course credit or the corresponding Foreign language placement score.
- PHYS 212 may be used as a major elective, in which case one less MSCI Elective would be required.
- The College of Arts and Sciences requires one U.S. History and one non-U.S. History course, both of which must be chosen from the approved Carolina Core GHS courses. Whichever is not fulfilled through the Carolina Core GHS requirement must be fulfilled through this college requirement.
- Students may choose to take MSCI 305 in place of CSCE 102 or MSCI 599 (Data Analysis section only) in place of STAT 515 by petition. If students use either MSCI 305 or 599 for the Carolina Core ARP requirement, then those hours cannot be included in the 36 hours of major courses.
- In addition to the required 13 hours of major coursework, Marine Science majors must select 23 hours of Marine Science electives (which include the required Geological Oceanography Concentration courses) in consultation with a faculty advisor for a total of 36 major hours. The elective courses listed in the [Undergraduate Bulletin for Marine Science](#) are commonly selected, but any course which is eligible for cognate credit in the College of Arts and Sciences can potentially be a major course in Marine Science. The determination of major courses in this interdisciplinary program is the result of consultation between the student and an advisor.
- All MSCI majors are required to undertake a minimum of three weeks of marine science field effort. Possibilities include MSCI 460, semester or summer internship, REU, semester at sea, or faculty-sponsored field research or cruise. Students who do not select MSCI 460, must submit a petition for an alternative field experience to the Undergraduate Director. If the alternative is approved, the student must submit a short (2-3 page minimum) report at the completion of the experience to the Undergraduate Director for approval. Upon approval, the Undergraduate Director will notify the Dean's office of the substitution. Students will not normally receive course credit hours for their alternative field experience, but may combine this requirement with independent study credit as appropriate. If no course credit hours are associated with the field experience, the student will be required to take an additional Marine Science elective (300-level and above). Some students may complete MSCI 460 in the summer following senior year & graduate in August.
- No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Program Notes:

- ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 must be completed in the student's first 60 semester hours of work in order for these courses to be credited toward graduation. MSCI 101 and MSCI 102 must be completed in the first year in order to stay on track with subsequent Marine Science courses and ensure a timely graduation. Other courses identified as "critical" must be completed before the beginning of the student's 5th major semester.
- Marine Science majors may enroll in the following courses a maximum of two times to earn the required grade of C or higher: MATH through MATH 142, CHEM 111/111L, CHEM 112/112L, PHYS 201/201L or PHYS 211/211L, PHYS 202/202L or PHYS 212/212L. For the purposes of this standard of progression, withdrawal with a W does not constitute enrollment. These courses, in addition to MSCI 101 and MSCI 102, must be completed before the beginning of the student's their academic year (fifth major semester) as a marine science major.
- A maximum of 10 semester hours of a combination of independent study, seminar, and undergraduate research courses may count in the 36 hours of major credit required for the Marine Science major.
- The last 30 credit hours toward your degree must be earned in residence at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

University Requirements: Bachelor's degree-seeking students must meet Carolina Core (general education) requirements. For more information regarding these requirements, please visit the [Carolina Core](#) page on the University website.

| Codes: | | | |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| CC | Carolina Core | CC-INF | Carolina Core – Information Literacy |
| CC-AIU | Carolina Core-Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding | CC-INT | Carolina Core – Integrative Course |
| CC-ARP | Carolina Core-Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving | CC-SCI | Carolina Core – Scientific Literacy |
| CC-CMS | Carolina Core-Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component | CC-VSR | Carolina Core – Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility |
| CC-CMW | Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written Component | CR | College Requirement |
| CC-GFL | Carolina Core-Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language | MR | Major Requirement |
| CC-GHS | Carolina Core – Historical Thinking | PR | Program Requirement |
| CC-GSS | Carolina Core – Social Sciences | | |

Disclaimer: Major maps are only a suggested or recommended sequence of courses required in a program of study. Please contact your academic advisor for assistance in the application of specific coursework to a program of study and course selection and planning for upcoming semesters.