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Distance Education at the Oceanographic Center 2011

Nova Southeastern University

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Distance Education at the Oceanographic Center
Learn Globally, Act Locally
The Oceanographic Center

The Oceanographic Center is a fully accredited, academic and research component of Nova Southeastern University (NSU). The center's mission is to carry out innovative, basic, and applied research and to provide high-quality graduate education in a broad range of marine science and related disciplines. In addition to in-house programs of study, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies (IMCS) at the Oceanographic Center offers flexible, accessible, and learner-centered distance education courses at the graduate level.

Course Delivery

Distance courses are offered through an online delivery system. These courses are designed to accommodate students living and working around the world. Lessons are delivered through a variety of audiovisual and text-based materials. Communication tools such as discussion boards, real-time chats, and social networking sites encourage student-student and instructor-student collaboration. Instructors respond to questions and concerns in a timely manner. Evaluations may be based on written tests, projects, term papers, quizzes, and graded discussion postings.

The Oceanographic Center graduate distance programs are offered according to scheduled 12- and 4-week term timetables. Students may enter a program of study at the start of any of five term sessions throughout the year. Students accepted for study into distance programs may elect to do a blend of distance and in-house courses, including field courses, when applicable.

Programs of Study

Distance students may choose to complete up to two individual courses or to apply for entry into one of the following programs:

Distance Programs Conferred by the Oceanographic Center

- Graduate Certificate in Coastal Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Marine and Coastal Climate Change
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Marine and Coastal Studies
- Master of Science (M.S.) in Coastal Zone Management

The center also offers an undergraduate distance Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Marine Professional Studies. For information, please call 800-541-6682, ext. 23621, or email oconline@nova.edu.

Distance Programs Offered in Collaboration with the Oceanographic Center

- Master of Science in Education, with specialization in Environmental Education (application and conferral through NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services)
- Master of Arts in Cross-Disciplinary Studies (application and conferral through NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Students accepted into the graduate certificate or master's degree programs may be eligible for financial aid.
**Distance Graduate Certificate Programs**

**Graduate Certificate in Coastal Studies**

This program provides

- a scientifically based, credible, holistic, and timely introduction to, and knowledge of, key ecological and socioenvironmental issues related to the oceans and coastal zone
- a forum for sharing national and international perspectives, information, and case studies concerning the coastal and marine environment

To earn the certificate, students must

- successfully complete (C grade or higher) any four applicable graduate courses

This flexible format makes the program ideal for working professionals and college graduates in a variety of related fields. The program is designed for those interested in advancing their educational and career goals without having to commit to a full degree program, as well as those who wish to try a few courses before embarking upon a master's degree. Graduate credits earned for the certificate may be applied toward certain master's degree programs (including the M.S. in Coastal Zone Management). Acceptance into the graduate certificate program does not guarantee acceptance into a master's degree program at the Oceanographic Center.

**Admission Requirements**

- bachelor's degree
- submission of online application
- $50 application fee

**Graduate Certificate in Marine and Coastal Climate Change**

This program provides

- an emphasis on the key ecological and socio-environmental impacts of climate change upon the marine and coastal zone, including the natural and built environment

To earn the certificate, students must

- successfully complete two core classes: (1) Marine and Coastal Climate Change—The Scientific Basis and (2) Fundamental Concepts of Climate Change—Societal Perspectives
- successfully complete two CZMT or MCCC courses offered in distance, in-house, or field-based formats

More details on individual courses may be found at [www.nova.edu/ocean](http://www.nova.edu/ocean).

**Distance Graduate Degrees**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) in Marine and Coastal Studies**

This degree program provides

- a broadened and scholarly perspective on marine and coastal issues and concerns, applicable to students without an academic natural science background

The program is intended for recent college graduates and working professionals with an interest in the marine and coastal zone who may not have completed formal academic studies in the physical or biological sciences, or who wish to pursue further study in the marine-related social sciences. It is relevant to those pursuing careers in a broad range of sectors (e.g., administration, teaching, government and policy, urban planning, environmental journalism and film media, transportation, tourism, and business.)
Most students should be able to complete the degree in two to three years, but it can range from a minimum of 18 months (full-time) to five years (part-time) of study. Program completion consists of 12 graduate courses (3 credits each) equaling 36 credit hours (15 hours of core/required courses and 21 hours of electives) with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. In addition, students write a proctored or on-site final comprehensive examination and present a final portfolio of rigorous, scaffolded written work compiled from core courses throughout the program.

**Master of Science (M.S.) in Coastal Zone Management**

This degree program focuses on:

- contemporary problems and conflicts arising from increased use of coastal areas
- the evaluation of alternative policy management solutions

This program is intended for employees seeking government and industry career enhancement, as well as for recent college graduates seeking careers in planning and management with government agencies, industries, and other related organizations. The program can also be of value for the advancement of careers in education.

Most students are able to complete the degree in two to three years, but it can range from a minimum of 18 months (full-time) to five years (part-time) of study. Program completion consists of completing 15 graduate courses (3 credits each) equaling 45 credit hours (15 hours of core/required courses, 24 hours of electives, and 6 hours of capstone credits)—with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. In addition, students must write and defend a capstone paper that must be approved as complete by the adviser and one additional committee member.

**Admission Requirements for Master’s Degrees**

- submission of online application form
- $50 application fee (if you have not applied for study with NSU’s Oceanographic Center before)
- three letters of recommendation
- statement of career goals
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing)
- official transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended
- undergraduate GPA major of at least 2.75 and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5

Applicants whose undergraduate study was not conducted in English may be required to submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores. Credits earned at non-U.S. institutions must be evaluated for equivalency by an outside agency (World Education Services or Joseph Silny & Associates). Applicants are responsible for evaluation fees.

Students may complete the entire M.A. in Marine and Coastal Studies or M.S. in Coastal Zone Management by distance study or choose to do a blend of distance, in-house, and field-based courses, (provided they meet specific course prerequisites for in-house and field-based study). Students who are able to come to the Oceanographic Center to write course examinations and/or present their capstone theses are encouraged to do so. If students are unable to come to the center to write examinations, they must arrange for proctoring. For distance capstone presentations (M.S.), audiovisual accommodation may be arranged through the distance office.

**Master of Science in Education, with specialization in Environmental Education**

This degree program focuses on:

- the complex relationship of human society to the natural and built environment
- helping educators to foster and impart the interdisciplinary knowledge, values, attitudes, and commitment needed to understand and help resolve environmental issues

This is a fast-paced program designed to be completed within one year. Students within an assigned cluster take the same courses in sequence. There are two sessions each term and three terms each year, which totals 12 courses and 36 graduate credits. Courses within the specialization are offered by both the Oceanographic Center and the National Graduate Teacher Education (NGTE) program of NSU’s Fischler School of Education and Human Services. Program admission, course registration, and degree conferal are processed through the Fischler School. For more information, please visit the NGTE Web site at [www.fischlerschool.nova.edu/ms/education/environmental/degreeonly](http://www.fischlerschool.nova.edu/ms/education/environmental/degreeonly).

**Master of Arts in Cross-Disciplinary Studies, with a Concentration Track in Coastal Environment and Society**

This degree program:

- is multidisciplinary and experiential
- allows students to self-design their graduate studies

The M.A. is offered through, and conferred by, NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). The concentration tracks—Coastal Environment and Society and Environment and Society—are taken through the Oceanographic Center.

The M.A. consists of an 11-course (33 credits) sequence that includes core classes, practicum, and a 12-credit concentration track. Students can complete the program completely online, but also have a large selection of on-campus courses from which to choose. Summer attendance is mandatory. For more information, including admission and course registration, visit [http://shss.nova.edu/MACS/index.htm](http://shss.nova.edu/MACS/index.htm).
The Oceanographic Center Distance Education Program

at Nova Southeastern University invites you to enhance your career and your understanding of the marine and coastal environment by applying for study toward a graduate certificate or a master’s degree.

We offer

- flexible course delivery: entirely Web-based study, in-house evening courses, and/or field courses—the choice, and the mix, is up to you
- a range of courses, graduate certificates, and master’s degree programs: offered entirely through the Oceanographic Center or in conjunction with other NSU schools
- courses taught by Oceanographic Center and adjunct faculty members who are actively involved in related research worldwide
- dedicated distance learning and library support staff members to assist you as needed throughout your program of study
- distance-student access to a wide range of full-text journals, ebooks, and the services of NSU libraries, including the William S. Richardson Ocean Sciences Library
- opportunities to take field courses in locations such as the Florida Keys, Alaska, and Belize
- rolling admissions, with enrollment opportunities five times per year (at the start of each session)
- a dynamic learning environment with students based across the United States and around the world
- a fluid transfer of credits from the graduate certificate program into the master’s degree program, pending full graduate acceptance
Don’t feel distant. Get in touch with us!

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About Nova Southeastern University

NSU is the largest independent institution of higher education in the Southeastern United States, with an enrollment of more than 28,000 students. The university has 16 academic centers, colleges, and schools that specialize in osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, optometry, allied health and nursing, medical sciences, dental medicine, law, oceanography, business and entrepreneurship, computer and information sciences, humanities and social sciences, education, psychology, family education, and undergraduate studies.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4301, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.