

Request for a New Course Designator

MAST – Marine Studies

Rationale for New or Changed Course Designator: A new course designator is needed to clearly identify select courses that represent key components of the Marine Studies undergraduate degree curriculum, submitted as Category I proposal (ID 106759). This degree will be centrally housed by CLA, and thus does not have an academic home within any of CLA's schools. A MAST designator will identify those particular courses that anchor parts of the curriculum and assessments of learning outcomes, as described in the Category I proposal for the Marine Studies undergraduate degree.

Banner Course Designator Requested Code: MAST

Banner Description: Marine Studies Undergraduate Degree Program

Purpose

- *What academic programs, including majors, certificates, options, and minors will be served by courses within the proposed new course designator?*
- *In what ways will the content within the scope of the course designator constitute a coherent body of knowledge?*
- *Is the proposed usage of the course designator consistent with practices at OSU and other institutions? Give examples.*

The MAST course designator is proposed for select courses within the new Marine Studies undergraduate degree curriculum, to be housed in the College of Liberal Arts. It will serve the proposed major and, eventually, a minor (not yet proposed), to be housed in the College of Liberal Arts. A Category I proposal for this undergraduate degree program (BA and BS) has been submitted, Curriculum Proposal System Identification Number 106759.

Marine studies is a transdisciplinary field of study that explores the dynamic relationship between people and the marine environment. As the reach of anthropogenic impacts expands from the heavily populated coast to remote regions of the ocean (e.g. deep sea, areas beyond national jurisdiction, etc.), the marine environment has become a literal, as well as symbolic, last frontier for exploration and exploitation. More than ever, unraveling these dynamics to better understand how people affect the ocean and, in turn, how the ocean affects humans, is essential. Conceptually, marine studies supports these processes by emphasizing the human dimensions of ocean and coasts, based on foundational knowledge about their

natural characteristics. These human dimensions coalesce in the social sciences, arts, and humanities, to provide a deeper understanding of the complex social, cultural, historical, and economic nature of the marine environment.

Housed in the College of Liberal Arts, the undergraduate Marine Studies degree draws on OSU's excellent natural and social science traditions, as well as exceptional arts and humanities programs, to provide students with conceptual foundations, immersive experiences, and professional skills in the liberal arts-based areas of importance to marine studies.

The development and implementation of this undergraduate program is a core aspect of the Marine Studies Initiative's mission. This initiative is a campus-wide effort to create a healthy future for our ocean and the planet through transdisciplinary research and teaching that emphasizes collaboration, experiential learning, engagement with society and problem solving. Supporting the Marine Studies Initiative is one of OSU's twenty actions in the new Strategic Plan 4.0.

A designator is needed to clearly identify select courses that represent key components of the Marine Studies undergraduate degree curriculum. This degree will be centrally housed by CLA, and thus does not have an academic home within any of CLA's schools. A MAST designator will identify those particular courses that anchor parts of the curriculum and assessments of learning outcomes, as described in the Category I proposal for the Marine Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposed new 'MAST' course designator will be used for select foundational and core courses designed specifically for this degree program. Foundational coursework in the lower division will develop critical thinking regarding human interactions with the marine environment that is grounded in knowledge of its natural characteristics. Core coursework at the upper division will provide students with interdisciplinary training, including diverse perspectives and methodological approaches to problem solving and decision-making, in marine related fields of inquiry across the social sciences, arts, and humanities.

Since inter- and transdisciplinary training in Marine Studies is a central feature of this degree, courses from other designators are included throughout the curriculum. The MAST designator will be used for a limited number of courses around which the curriculum is built. These courses are: the lower division 200, entry-level course "Humans and the Ocean¹," a 300-level introduction to marine studies course "Society, Culture, and the Marine Environment,²" the required Marine Studies Internship, and a capstone course.

¹ "Humans and the Ocean" has been approved by OSU for spring term 2019, as ENG230X/TOX230X/FW 230X (IDs 106119, 106118, and 106117) and in CPS as drafts under the 230 number within those designators reflect course instructors' academic homes (ID #106106; 106104; 105236).

² "Society Culture and the Marine Environment" is submitted to CPS as a draft SOC 382 (ID #105584)

The MAST designator does not exist at Oregon State University or any other 2- or 4-year institution in the state of Oregon. We propose MAST instead of MS, both because MS is taken by Military Science, but also because it (MAST) brings to mind the mast of a sailing vessel-- a fitting symbol for marine studies. The use of a designator for a limited number of courses within a program occurs at OSU. For example, within the College of Liberal Arts, Liberal Studies is the only other degree centrally housed; the designator 'LS' denotes nine courses key to that degree <https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/courses/ls/> . This approach is also common for other interdisciplinary degrees featuring courses from across campus, such as Natural Resources (NR, <https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/courses/nr/>) and Environmental Sciences (ENSC, <https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/courses/ensc/>).

Beyond Oregon, 'MAST' is used to identify maritime programs at a few institutions of higher education nationwide. Maritime programs have traditionally focused on preparing students for a variety of careers in the civilian maritime industrial and service sectors. Some university, undergraduate maritime programs use the title "maritime" yet utilize the CIP code for Environmental Studies. Examples of liberal-arts based marine studies programs utilizing the MAST designator include:

- University of Connecticut's Maritime Studies <https://catalog.uconn.edu/college-of-liberal-arts-and-sciences/maritime-studies/>
- Texas A&M University at Galveston's Maritime Studies program <http://www.tamug.edu/mast/>

Accountability

- *What will be the academic home of the proposed course designator (College, School, Department, or Program)?*

Marine Studies Initiative and College of Liberal Arts. The Marine Studies Initiative is led by Executive Director Jack Barth, who reports directly to the Provost. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, MSI will provide financial and other resources commensurate with administrative, academic, and support costs associated with program development and initial delivery, to be determined between MSI and CLA in advance of specific development/delivery instances. CLA will provide appropriate academic faculty and administration of the Marine Studies degree program.

- *Who will be responsible for administering courses in the designator, e.g. scheduling and catalog updates. Who will be the faculty contact persons?*

College of Liberal Arts. Current contact: Marion Rossi, Associate Dean.

Starting in 2019, a small Marine Studies Degree Program Coordinating and Oversight Committee made up of CLA faculty will provide oversight in conjunction with CLA and MSI leadership. Combined, these individuals will be responsible for MAST courses in

the program's initial offering. These faculty will be have .10 of their FTE devoted to Marine Studies governance/oversight. Once established, CLA, in coordination with the Marine Studies Initiative, will hire (at .50 FTE) a faculty member to act as Marine Studies Undergraduate Degree Program Director, ensuring day-to-day operational oversight, leadership and facilitation of the Marine Studies Degree Program Coordinating and Oversight Committee, the degree, and its courses (MAST).

- *Who will be responsible for consistency and outcome assessment for courses in the designator?*

College of Liberal Arts, as described in the Category I degree proposal.

- *Which units will receive credit for the Student Credit Hours generated by courses in the subject code?*

Marine Studies Initiative.

As the undergraduate Marine Studies degree program matures and becomes self-sustainable, the MAST designator-related income will help ensure on-going program development and early delivery specifically for this degree program. Decisions for use of these funds will be made in close consultation and coordination with the College of Liberal Arts, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding. Initial investments include funds for course development and early delivery, program brochures, library resources, a part-time academic advisor, and partial salary support for the CLA Marine Studies Degree Program Coordinating and Oversight Committee members and the Marine Studies Undergraduate Degree Program Director.

- *Who will be responsible for communicating information about the new designator to stakeholders, including advisors, Admissions, and students?*

College of Liberal Arts. Current contact: Marion Rossi, Associate Dean.

Marine Studies Initiative Office. Kristen Milligan, Associate Director.

Impacts: Who will benefit from the new designator and what changes will result from its implementation.

- *How will the new course designator benefit students?*

The MAST designator will create an easily identifiable designator for a new transdisciplinary degree program associated with OSU's commitment to the Marine Studies Initiative. Its limited use in select signature courses for the undergraduate Marine Studies degree will identify those key classes required for these 'MAST' major students. This designator identifies the core classes through which students will gain their core Marine Studies knowledge and build strength through cohort building.

- *Will courses with the new course designator duplicate or compete with existing course designators?*

No

- *Are there expected cross-listings or curricular equivalencies?*

No

- *How is the new course designator expected to affect transfer credits?*

The new designator will only affect those transfers in need of satisfying these curriculum requirements. This should only be an issue for students transferring in their third year, for the MAST 200-course, or fourth year, for the MAST-300 course and MAST internship requirements. Internships from other designators at other universities can be considered on case-by-case basis for transfer eligibility.

- *Will any existing course designators expire when the new course designator is implemented, and who is impacted by that?*

No