

**Materials linked from the December 13, 2019 Curriculum Council agenda.**

**BA/BS in Marine Studies (MAST)**

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Purpose - The MAST program explores the interactions between humans and the marine environment.

Target audience – students interested in ocean/marine issues from a non-science perspective.

Major-specific requirements –

- MAST Foundation – MAST 201 Humans and the Ocean (new – approved) and 8 credits of marine courses (OC, BI, FW)
- MAST Core – MAST 300 Society, Culture, and the Marine Environment (new) plus 20 credits from a list of courses (with no more than 2 from a single designator)
- MAST Areas of Distinctions – students work with faculty and advisors to develop a specialization plan; minimum of 20 credits
- MAST Capstone (new)
- MAST Internship (new) – each student develops in consultation with an MSI Academic Advisor.

Our observations -

- The field of study for the MAST program is the interaction between humans and the marine environment. It's not clear how the BS in Marine Studies "meet[s] the needs for professional and technical problem solving in the field of study" given that it doesn't require any Math or Science beyond the Bacc Core BS requirements. (quote taken from the APA policy on BA/BS requirements)
- It's not clear how the BS in Marine Studies differs from other existing OSU programs (e.g., Environmental Studies, Natural Resources, Fisheries & Wildlife Minor in Marine Conservation and Management) given that these programs also explore the human-marine environment. However, according to section 6 in the proposal (page 37), the Marine Studies program will explore this interaction through "distinctive artistic, humanistic, and social scientific approaches."
- There are 9 new courses being developed in the CLA (2 approved, 5 in the CPS process, and two not submitted – HST 334 and WGSS 441) that are humanities and social science focused. Three additional courses are "in development".
- Some of the new courses appear to overlap with existing courses – e.g., ES 360 (proposed) with FW 340; MAST 300 (proposed) with OC 333, FW 230x and BI 347. It is also unclear how other proposed courses substantively differ from courses already offered in the CLA.
- WIC courses approved for the major – ART 411 Art in Context Historical and Critical Approaches, EAH 411 Perspectives in Environmental Arts and Humanities, EAH 412 Environmental Science in Context. There is also an additional writing course (WR XXX) currently under development.
  - CEOAS and FW also offers WIC courses that would be appropriate (e.g., GEOG 323; OC 334; FW 439) and there might be some offered by other colleges and programs.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> EC 434, AEC 461, AG 421, BB/BI 317, BI 306H, BI 371, BOT 323, EAH 411, ECON 428, ECON 439, ENSC 479, FOR 460, FW 435, GEO 427, GEOG 324, GEOG 330, HSTS 415, HSTS 419, HSTS 425, PS 449,

- The relevance of some courses in the list of MAST degree electives (for the specializations) is unclear.
- There will be a Marine Studies Degree Program Coordinating and Oversight Committee consisting of CLA faculty with dedicated FTE (.10) and a MAST Program Coordinator will be hired (.5 FTE). However, Marine Studies is, by definition, supposed to be “an interdisciplinary field of study” (proposal page 1).
- CLA Central Advising will support students their first two years and a degree-specific advisor after that. According to the budget document, MSI Advisor/Internship Coordinator is a .25 FTE in FY22, .5 FTE in FY23, and 1.0 FTE starting in FY 24. Unclear if this will be sufficient to support students in creating specialization plans and developing internships.
- According to the market demand report, there are few marine studies programs nationally so institutions with environmental studies or environmental science programs were profiled.
- The market research presented suggests there is interest in Marine Studies but the survey was limited to OSU students and it wasn’t clear if their interest was specifically in the proposed MAST program versus other marine related programs and courses.
- Neither report provides sufficient evidence to conclude the MAST degree will attract new students from outside OSU.
- National and regional demand for bachelor’s-level marine studies professionals declined during 2017-2018 but is expected to increase according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).