SO YOU WANT TO BE AN OCEAN SCIENTIST...

Test the waters by gaining related field, laboratory, or research experience.
- Apply for a paid work study position in a professor's lab
- Volunteer on a graduate student research project
- Enroll in a field course
- Apply for an internship
- Produce an undergraduate thesis

So, what's the difference between an oceanographer and marine biologist?
Oceanographers study the role of the ocean — the chemistry, physics, geology of ocean systems and how organisms shape these systems. Marine Biologists study marine organisms — their characteristics, physiology, and life history.

Interested in chemistry, earth sciences, physics, statistics, data science, biology? An Ocean Sciences degree covers the gamut! While you will be trained in all of these disciplines, as a PhD or MS Plan 1 student you have the opportunity to focus your research on one of four research pathways.

We welcome and provide support for students with diverse backgrounds such as underrepresented minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, and first-generation college students. Our Ocean Sciences Diversity Committee offers faculty training, peer mentoring, an anti-racism reading group, and dedicated office hours.

We offer three graduate degree programs
- PhD - Five years and fully-funded. Complete a dissertation.
- MS Plan 1 - Two years and fully-funded. Complete a thesis.
- MS Plan 2 - One year and self-funded. Complete a comprehensive exam.

Prospective students are highly encouraged to review department webpages and contact professors of interest.