
Oceanography

Administered by the Dean of the
College of Sciences

OFFICE: Geology/Mathematics/Computer Science 604

TELEPHONE: (619) 594-5142

WEB SITE: www.geology.sdsu.edu

San Diego State University provides preparation for ocean-oriented careers by offering marine-related coursework and oceanographic experience within regular degree programs in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Geography, Geological Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics. Master's degrees with specialization in marine problems may also be earned in these departments. The Ph.D. degree is offered in biology, chemistry, and ecology, jointly with the University of California. Degrees in general oceanography or marine studies are not offered by the University. The Coastal and Marine Institute coordinates work in the area of marine studies and provides special supporting services to the faculty, staff and students, including student advising, assistance in research and publication, operation of the University's marine laboratory at San Diego Bay, and a boat operations program.

Courses in general oceanography are offered by faculty from the Departments of Biology and Geological Sciences. Advanced coursework and research in geological and physical oceanography are conducted in the Geological Sciences Department. An option in marine geology is offered as part of the undergraduate major in geological sciences. Advanced courses and research in biological oceanography, marine biology, marine botany, and marine zoology are conducted in the Department of Biology. Similar marine-related coursework and research are offered in the Departments of Economics and Geography and in the College of Engineering. Students who require advising in these areas should inquire at one of the departments listed above or the Coastal and Marine Institute. (See section of this catalog on Colleges, College of Sciences Research Centers and Institutes.)

Oceanography Minor

Offered for undergraduate science students by the Department of Geological Sciences, the minor in oceanography consists of a minimum of 16 upper division units to include Biology 515 or 517; Geological Sciences 540, 545; Oceanography 541; and three additional units selected with the approval of the adviser. Additional prerequisite courses are required.

The oceanography minor is intended for students with extensive background in the sciences. Oceanography 320 is not applicable toward the oceanography minor.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

COURSES (OCEAN)

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

305. Scientific Scuba Diving (3)

Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.

Prerequisites: Upper division standing. Swimming competency evaluation, physical examination approval for scuba diving, waiver for scuba diving.

Entry level scientific diver training and certification course. Theory and practical diving skills to include diving physiology, hyperbaric conditions, medical hazards, proper selection, care and operation of diving equipment, marine environment, emergency procedures, scientific diving techniques and regulations. Not open to students with credit in Oceanography 306 or Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 320, 323, 324.

306. Scientific Scuba Diving for Certified Divers (3)

Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.

Prerequisites: Oceanography 305 and Advanced or Scientific Diving Certification, diving skills proficiency evaluation, acceptable openwater diving equipment, physical examination approval for scuba diving, waiver for scuba diving.

Scientific diving operations, techniques and procedures; dive planning and lead diver responsibilities; underwater work, mapping, search and salvage, navigation, deep, night and small boat diving; emergency procedures and rescue. Physics, physiology, medicine, decompression theory, oceanography, marine life and marine environment. Master Diver Certification. Not open to students with credit in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 324.

320. The Oceans (3) I, II

Prerequisites: One introductory college course in a life science and one in a physical science, and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.A., Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning.

The ocean system, its influence on life, climate, the earth, and humankind.

496. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

541. Oceanography (3)

Prerequisites: Biology 201A, 201B; Mathematics 121 and 122 or 150; Physics 180A or 195.

Multidisciplinary examination of physical, chemical, biological and geological aspects of marine environment and relationship of humans with the sea.

561. Deep Sea Oceanography (3)

Prerequisites: Biology 515 and Chemistry 365.

Concepts of deep sea oceanography including abyssal biology, physics and chemistry, instruments and methods of deep sea research, biogeochemistry of oceanic ridges, and high-pressure biochemistry.

For additional courses in Marine Studies see:

Biology 515. Marine Invertebrate Biology
Biology 517. Marine Ecology
Biology 519. Aquaculture
Biology 520. Ichthyology
Economics 454. Economics of the Ocean
Geography 504. Coastal and Submarine Physiography
Geography 588. Intermediate Remote Sensing of Environment
Geological Sciences 540. Marine Geology
Geological Sciences 545. Descriptive Physical Oceanography