AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Any degree seeking student with at least a B.S. or B.A. degree in a natural or physical science, mathematics or engineering may apply to enter the Aquatic Environmental Science Masters degree program. This is a course-based, terminal masters degree culminating in a capstone experience course and an internship or project. There is no Ph.D. program option. Admission to the program is granted upon the recommendation of the admissions committee. Students pay all tuition and fees.

MAINTENANCE OF ACTIVE STUDENT STATUS

Minimum Standards
In order to remain in the Aquatic Environmental Science graduate program, a student must:
1. Be registered or be on a departmentally approved leave of absence (see below)
2. Be enrolled in an approved schedule of classes
3. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0
4. Make satisfactory progress in the program
5. Comply with all other University requirements as stated in the Florida State University Graduate Bulletin

Satisfactory progress in number 4 is determined by the Director of the Aquatic Environmental Science Program

The Director of the Aquatic Environmental Science Graduate Program
The Director approves the student’s admission to the program and provides guidance and facilities during the student’s tenure. The Capstone Experience course is facilitated by the Director.

Leave of Absence
A student who cannot register for any semester excluding summer should submit a written leave of absence request, approved by the Director, to the Oceanography Program Coordinator.

A student not registered for two or more successive semesters must comply with the University requirement and apply for admission through the University’s Office of Admission. Such admission will not be automatic, but must be reviewed by the admissions committee and the program director.

Voluntary Separation
A student may leave the program at any time by notifying the Director in writing and returning all FSU materials.

Dismissal
A student may be dismissed from the AES program for not complying with any of the reasons listed above under Minimum Standards. The dismissal of a student who has fallen below any of the minimum standards (1-5) will be by the Program Director and the Oceanography Program Coordinator.

Revised Summer 2010
GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites
An undergraduate degree in one of the natural sciences, mathematics or engineering.

Program of Study
The Aquatic Environmental Science Master’s degree program is course-based culminating with a capstone experience course. Thirty-six semester hour credits of 5000 level coursework are required. Three of the 36 must be Capstone Experience credits (OCE5934r). A faculty Director will guide the student’s progress in the program. The university requires that at least 21 of these hours must be taken on a letter grade basis (A, B, C). Students must receive permission from the Program Director to take any course for a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade. A research paper or internship may be substituted for 6 hours of elective coursework with the permission of the Director.

Only courses numbered 5000 or above are normally taken by graduate students, however, the program director may permit the student to take specified 4000 level courses in the degree program. For example, a 4000 level statistics course may be substituted for the analytical requirement with permission from the program director. Such 4000 level courses may be credited toward a graduate degree.

The required coursework must be taken in the Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Science or in other scientific disciplines as the individual’s interest and capstone experience dictate.

Progress should be reviewed annually. Before registration for the third semester or upon the completion of 18 credit hours, the student should meet with the Director/Academic Coordinator to evaluate progress up to that point. A second evaluation should be done before registration for the fourth and final semester or before completing the final nine credit hours.

The University requires that all work for the Master’s degree must be completed within seven (7) years from the time of the student’s initial registration. This program is designed to be completed in 2 years when attending full time (18 credits each academic year).

Content and Form of the Capstone Experience Paper
It is recognized that there is no set content and form for the written topic paper. The student and the Director must agree in advance on the topic and format of the written document and presentation. Arrangements for the presentation should be made with the Director early in the term.

AES courses applied toward a Masters in Oceanography
If an AES student is admitted to the department for a research-based masters in oceanography, his or her supervisory committee will decide on a case by case basis if any courses taken for the Masters in Aquatic Environmental Science can be applied to the Oceanography degree requirements.

COURSE POLICY
Each semester, before registering for any courses, the student should confer with the AES Program Director.

Course Requirements
Aquatic Environmental Science Master’s students are required to complete four (4) courses from the list below. All are 3 credit hours unless indicated otherwise.

OGC 5106 The Earth System or GLY 5265 Nuclear Geology
OCE 5009L Coastal Oceanography and Marine Field Methods (4)
OCE 5009 Advanced General Oceanography or OCB5050 Basic Biological Oceanography
OCB 5635 Coastal Ocean Ecology
OCB 5930 Marine Pollution or GLY 5885 Geologic Hazards Assessment
OCP 5930 Physics & Flow of Water Bodies or OCP 5050 Basic Physical Oceanography
And Select two (2) of the following eight (8) analytical courses:
STA 5126 Introduction to Applied Statistics
STA 5206 Analysis of Variance and Design of Experiments
STA 5207 Applied Regressions Methods
STA 5507 Applied Non-parametric Statistics
GIS 5100 Advanced Geographic Info Systems
GIS 5101 Geographic Information Processing and Systems
GIS 5106 Advanced Geographic Information Science
GIS 5305 Geographical Information Systems for Environmental Analysis and Modeling
GLY 5595 Geostatistics (Advanced Topics in Sedimentation and Stratigraphy)

And Select five (5) of the following elective courses based on the student’s primary interest and capstone paper topic:

OCB 5639 Marine Benthic Ecology
OCC 5052 Aquatic Chemistry
OCC 5062 Marine Isotopic Chemistry
OCC 5415 Marine Geochemistry
OCC 5554 Atmospheric Chemistry
OCE 5018 Current Issues in Environmental Science
OCG5106 The Earth System
CHM 5086 Environmental Chemistry I
CHM 5087 Environmental Chemistry II
GEO 5377 Natural Resource Assessment Analysis
GLY 5575 Coastal Geology
GLY 5827 Principles of Hydrology
GLY 5887 Environmental Geology I
MCB 4603 Environmental Microbiology
PCB 5345C Advanced Field Biology
PCB 5447 Community Ecology
ZOO 4204 Biology of Higher Marine
LAW 6470 Environmental Law

OCES934r Capstone Experience
This course is required in the final semester, 3 credits.

Capstone Experience Course
The Capstone Experience course is a forum to discuss issues, policies and problems in environmental science. Students, guided by the Director, select topics to research and evaluate in a 20-25 page synthesis paper (double-spaced, 12-point, Times font). Alternately, students may do an internship and summarize their activities in a 20-25 page report. Successful students will demonstrate adequate knowledge of the environmental science field and the ability to synthesize information from several sources (including a variety of publications) into a cohesive and meaningful paper. The course culminates in a seminar at which participants make an oral presentation based on the content of their paper reflecting their analysis of a particular problem or issue.

Completion of Degree Requirements
In the final semester the student must enroll in the Capstone Experience course. In the course the student must satisfactorily complete the paper and presentation. Early in that final semester (see Registration Guide calendar for deadline), the student must apply for graduation on Blackboard/Secure Apps/Apply for Graduation and make arrangements with the Program Director for the presentation.
AQES MS Program

Masters in Aquatic Environmental Science Checklist

Coursework: (check as completed)

Core Courses – Four (4) required

_____ OCE5009L, _____ OCB5635, (_____ OCG5106 or ____GLY5265), (_____ OCE5009 or _____OCB5050),
(____ OCB5930 or _____ GLY5885), ( _____ OCP5930 or _____OCP5050)

Analytical Courses – Two (2) required

____ STA5126     ____ STA5206     ____ STA5207     ____ STA5507
____ GIS 5100     ____ GIS 5101     ____ GIS 5106     ____ GIS 5305     ____ GLY5595

Elective Coursework – Five (5) from the list of approved electives

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Progress Review:
# 1 Progress reviewed before registration for third semester or upon completion of 18 credit hours.

__________________________________________________________________________________
Director Signature Date Comment

# 2 Progress reviewed before registration for final semester or before completing final 9 credit hours.

__________________________________________________________________________________
Director Signature Date Comment

Capstone Experience

_____ Final semester :  Paper topic and format approved ________
Arrangements/date for presentation approved ________
Paper completed and presented ________

Final Semester
Complete Progress Review. Register for OCE5934r Capstone Experience. Apply for graduation on
Blackboard/Secure Apps/Apply for Graduation

Total Credits (36 required)
_____ Core Courses
_____ Analytical Courses
_____ Elective Courses
_____ Capstone Experience
_____ Total

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