

## **Combined Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Science Master of Science Degree in Marine, Atmospheric, and Sustainability Sciences**

Students interested in this program may apply for admission at the end of their junior year. It is intended to prepare high-achieving students for professional employment or graduate studies in the field of marine and atmospheric sciences. Students must apply to and be accepted into the accelerated program.

The minimum requirements to apply include completion of at least 60 credits of undergraduate college coursework and a grade point average of 3.3 or higher as an undergraduate student. Additional requirements may vary by program. All applications require approval from both the SoMAS Undergraduate Program Director and the Graduate Program Director. Depending on the strength of the application some flexibility in GPA requirements may be available. Please visit the SoMAS website <http://somas.stonybrook.edu/> for further information on the Marine Sciences programs.

To apply to the program, step one is to meet with the undergraduate academic advisor, Ms. Nancy Black: [Nancy.black@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Nancy.black@stonybrook.edu) to review your eligibility, and proposed timeline. You will need to submit a personal statement along with two letters of recommendation from SoMAS faculty (one of the letters must come from the graduate faculty advisor who will be overseeing your work). These letters and statement must be submitted to Ms. Christina Fink; [Christina.fink@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Christina.fink@stonybrook.edu) for review and processing by the graduate and undergraduate directors. Once approved, it will be sent to the Graduate School.

Students accepted into this combined B.S./M.S. program may complete both degrees in approximately five years though the exact timing will depend on the student's progress on the research thesis. Entry in the combined B.S./M.S. program is contingent upon a student identifying a thesis advisor for the graduate portion of their work - **before they begin** and plan to engage in research experience in the laboratory of their advisor prior to the end of their junior year.

### **Matriculation into the Graduate Career**

When an accelerated student has completed a minimum of 105 undergraduate credits, has taken the maximum allotted number of graduate credits as an undergraduate student, and has less than a full-time (12 credits) undergraduate course load needed to complete their Bachelor's degree requirements, they should matriculate into their Graduate career. Matriculation requires submission of the "[Application to Graduate School for the Accelerated Bachelors/Master's Degree](#)" form and an admission letter signed by the Graduate Program Director to the Graduate School. Students should consult with both their Undergraduate Program Director and their academic advisor for guidance on matriculation. In anticipation of finishing the undergraduate degree in the spring of their fourth year, students must apply for graduation as noted above, be cleared for their undergrad degree with no incompletes, and submit the above noted application form to Ms. Christina Fink.

As part of the Accelerated Program, students can continue working on their Bachelor's degree requirements for graduation, as a Masters student for the last 12 or less credits that are needed. The Bachelor's degree will be awarded once all requirements are met.

As per Graduate School policy, undergraduate courses DO NOT count towards graduate degree requirements. All students must spend at least one year in residency (which is one fall and one spring semester in either order) for the master's portion of the program.

During the fourth year, students take a mixture of undergraduate and graduate courses (6 - 12 credits). [Forms are required for this registration approval](#). Once the Graduate School approves the forms, they are sent to the Registrar's office for processing. This typically is done after the program/student sees the APP indicator on their record.

The student must accept the offer of admission to the MS program, and become a matriculated graduate student. Students must complete all undergraduate coursework before the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> year - fall semester.

They MUST apply to graduate in spring of their final year in their Bachelor's as they will likely assume a paid Research Assistantship at the start of the graduate program (during the summer), and begin M.S. level research.

Combined program students may take 6 graduate credits at the UG level, as they must earn 24 credits in the graduate career to meet the graduate school credit policy. They will be able to use those 6 credits towards the UG career even though they matriculated as a graduate student.

This should all be completed before the start of the summer term of the fourth year. During the fifth year, students complete the remaining graduate requirements and 24 credits for the M.S., likely needing the following summer to complete the research project and thesis. The two to four 500-level MAR courses taken during the senior year may be counted toward required or elective requirements of the Undergraduate Marine Science or Atmospheric major. Students in the 5-year programs are not eligible for TA assignments in their 5<sup>th</sup> year.

### [School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Accelerated Degree Programs](#)

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, and Sustainability Sciences, M.S.  
(Atmospheric Track)

Marine Sciences, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, and Sustainability Sciences, M.S. (Marine Track)

Marine Vertebrate Biology, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, and Sustainability Sciences, M.S. (Marine Track)

Environmental Studies, B.A./ Marine Conservation and Policy, M.A.

## SoMAS 5 Year Accelerated Combined Degree Program Interest Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SBU ID: \_\_\_\_\_

1) SoMAS has (4) SUNY-approved combined degree programs. You can only choose the one that corresponds with your declared major. Which combined degree interests you?

\_\_\_\_ Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, & Sustainability Sciences, M.S.

\_\_\_\_ Marine Sciences, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, & Sustainability Sciences, M.S.

\_\_\_\_ Marine Vertebrate Biology, B.S./ Marine, Atmospheric, & Sustainability Sciences, M.S.

\_\_\_\_ Environmental Studies, B.A./ Marine Conservation & Policy, M.A.

2) The minimum requirements to apply include a grade point average of 3.3 or higher at SBU and completion of at least 60 total credits of undergraduate college coursework. If you meet these requirements, enter the information below:

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Credits completed to date: \_\_\_\_\_

3) All applicants will need to submit a personal essay statement along with two letters of recommendation from SoMAS faculty. For any of the B.S./M.S. programs, one of the letters must come from the graduate faculty advisor who will be overseeing your graduate work. *For the B.A./M.A. program, you can leave this blank.*

Name of proposed M.S. faculty advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you discussed this with that person? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Drop off or email this completed form to Nancy Black in E2361 Melville Library, at [nancy.black@stonybrook.edu](mailto:nancy.black@stonybrook.edu).