

## Prospective Students: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How can I become a Biology or Marine Biology major?**

A: Before completing BIO 201 and BIO 202 with a "C" (2.00) or better, students are pre-biology majors.

A student may declare a major in biology or marine biology after completing BIO 201 and 202, or equivalent courses, with a grade of "C" (2.00) or better in both courses, and the completion of a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit.

Transfer students wishing to declare a major in biology or marine biology must meet admission requirements for the major, which are:

- a. Completion of 24 semester credit hours from an accredited four-year college or university and a 2.00 grade point average in two biology courses with labs, preferably BIO 201 and 202, or equivalents; or,
- b. Completion of an associate degree from an accredited two-year college and a 2.00 grade point average in two biology courses with labs.

Students who intend to major in Biology or Marine Biology and do not meet the admission requirements will be considered pre-majors. All students who desire a degree in biology or marine biology must meet the admission requirements and declare a major to be eligible to graduate.

### **Q: Are internship opportunities available?**

A: Students from our department have participated in local, state and national internship programs. For ideas and internship opportunities, please see our [Student Opportunities](#) site or the following resources from the Career Center: [Biology](#) and [Marine Biology](#).

### **Q: Do students have the opportunity to participate in research with faculty?**

A: UNCW offers undergraduate students the opportunity to work with faculty. A large part of our biology and marine biology majors participate in some type of research experience. Each semester, many students become involved with research projects, either through faculty research grants, internships, directed independent studies, or honor projects. For a list of faculty research interests, please see our list of [faculty research areas](#).

### **Q: Are there opportunities to gain hands-on experience?**

A: Yes. Many students gain hands-on experience by working in faculty labs, participating in faculty research through Directed Independent Studies or through internships. Additionally, all graduates from our department are required to meet our Applied Learning requirement, which guarantees that each student will have at least one experience outside the classroom while at UNCW. Please view the [Applied Learning](#) document to view opportunities that students have to meet this requirement.

### **Q: What is the difference between marine biology and marine science?**

A: The study of marine biology is the scientific study of marine plants and animals and their environments. The study of marine science is the study of the physical aspects of marine environments.

### **Q: Who teaches lectures in the department?**

A: Ph.D. level faculty teach all lectures. Labs are taught by both faculty and graduate students.

### **Q: Are the faculty accessible to students?**

A: Yes. Faculty have posted office hours and welcome students with questions.

**Q: Are there jobs for graduates?**

A: Yes. [The Career Center](#) is a valuable resource for our students and alumni. Some of our graduates have accepted positions with local, state or federal agencies such as Smithsonian Institute, Fish and Wildlife Services, US Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, state and local water quality agencies, and NOAA. Other students have accepted positions with aquariums, museums, consulting firms, and pharmaceutical firms (research, analysis, and sales).

More information on types of careers that graduates can pursue can be found on the following Career Center sites: [Biology](#) and [Marine Biology](#).

**Q: What types of graduate programs do your students pursue upon graduation from your program?**

A: Examples of graduate programs that past graduates have attended:

Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Texas A & M  
Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University  
Florida State University  
Northeastern University  
North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill School of Medicine  
UNC-CH School of Dentistry  
UNC-CH School of Pharmacy  
Campbell University School of Pharmacy  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

**Q: Where can I find more information about careers, graduate programs and professional programs related to the fields of biology and marine biology?**

A: The following sites offer useful information about careers, graduate programs and professional programs in the fields of biology and marine biology:

[American Fisheries Society](#)  
[NOAA Office of Protected Resources](#)  
[International Marine Animal Training Association](#)  
[The Society for Marine Mammalogy](#)  
[Sea Grant Marine Careers](#)  
[Student Conservation Association](#)  
[The International Society for Behavioral Ecology](#)  
[North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#)  
[Association of American Medical Colleges](#)  
[American Dental Association Index](#)  
[American Optometric Association](#)  
[American Veterinary Medical Association](#)  
[American Physical Therapy Association](#)

**Q: Where can I find more information about preparing for pre-professional programs after graduation (ex: medical school, veterinary school, dental school, etc.)?**

A: Click [here](#) to view more information about pre-professional programs.

**Q: Can I tour the Center for Marine Science (CMS)?**

A: Unfortunately, in-person tours of CMS are not available, since CMS is a research facility. You can, however, view an online video tour of CMS [here](#).

**Q: What credit can I receive for my AP/IB scores?**

A: Please see the following links regarding credit for AP/IB scores: [AP](#) and [IB](#).