THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

SCHOOL OF OCEAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
at the
GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

SUMMER FIELD PROGRAM

READY FOR ADVENTURE!

A PREMIER MARINE LABORATORY ON THE GULF OF MEXICO, The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is home to the School of Ocean Science and Engineering's Division of Coastal Sciences, Marine Education Center, Center for Fisheries Research and Development, and the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center.

Located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) was established in 1947. The Summer Field Program is held at GCRL and is designed to allow undergraduate and graduate students an unrivaled academic experience studying coastal environments in an intensive field and laboratory-based setting. On-site amenities include research vessels, dormitory, dining hall, research laboratories, library, and specimen museum.

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE

Experience of a Lifetime!

SESSION I *June Term*

MARINE SCIENCE I - OCEANOGRAPHY

COA 300/300L, 5 credit hours (3/2)
This course briefly introduces oceanography, covering physical, geological, and chemical aspects. It highlights the interplay between living and non-living factors in the ocean.
Prerequisites: College algebra, 8 hours of chemistry, and 8 hours of biology or permission of instructor

ELASMOBRANCH BIOLOGY (SHARK BIOLOGY)

COA 422/522, 422L/522L, 6 credit hours (3/3)
This course offers an overview of elasmobranchii (sharks, skates, and rays), covering their biology, ecology, and taxonomy. Topics include evolution, anatomy, sensory systems, behavior, and species identification, with a focus on Gulf of Mexico species.
Prerequisites: Three semesters of biology, including marine biology, or permission of the instructor

Session I / Half of June Courses

BARRIER ISLAND ECOLOGY

COA 448/448L, 3 credit hours (2/1)
This course will familiarize students with concepts of coastal ecology with emphasis on the diversity of plant and animal communities unique to the northern Gulf of Mexico barrier islands. *Prerequisites: Background in biology, botany or geology recommended. This course runs the first half of Session I.*

CETACEAN BEHAVIOR

COA 444, 3 credit hours
Students will learn to observe and document dolphin behavior in the wild using various tools and techniques. *Prerequisites: None. This course runs the second half of Session I.*

MARINE INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

COA 428/528, 428L/528L, 6 credit hours (3/3)
This course focuses on marine and estuarine invertebrates from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, covering their structure, classification, evolutionary relationships, larval development, and functional processes.
Prerequisites: 16 hours of biology or permission of instructor

Session I / Online

MARINE MAMMALS

COA 443/543, 443L/543L, 5 credit hours (3/2)
This course is an overview of marine mammal biology from cetaceans to polar bears covering classification, evolutionary history, anatomy, physiology, behavior, conservation, and management.
Prerequisites: 16 hours of biology or permission of instructor

SESSION II *July Term*

MARINE SCIENCE II: MARINE BIOLOGY

COA 301/301L, 5 credit hours (3/2)
This course is an ecological approach to understanding the biology of marine systems with emphasis on local organisms, their habitats, life cycles, and survival strategies.
Prerequisites: 8 hours of biology or permission of instructor

MARINE CONSERVATION

COA 450/550, 450L/550L, 5 credit hours (3/2)
This course covers conservation biology and ecology with a focus on marine and coastal ecosystems. Topics include biodiversity, habitats, ecosystem processes, threats, species conservation, and human impacts.
Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor

MARINE ICHTHYOLOGY

COA 421/521, 421L/521L, 6 credit hours (3/3)
Marine ichthyology is an intensive field course where students collect and identify marine fish, develop an understanding of fish taxonomy, and the interplay between abiotic and biotic factors influencing fish distribution and diversity in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
Prerequisites: 16 hours of biology or permission of instructor

Session II / Online

MARINE TOXICOLOGY

COA 490/590, 5 credit hours
Students will learn the fundamentals of toxicology and about animal exposure, environmental impacts, and discuss current topics in marine toxicology, including oil spills, harmful algal blooms, and microplastics. *Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology and two semesters of chemistry or permission of instructor*

Course Fees

ACADEMIC CREDIT

All courses offered through The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Ocean Science and Engineering are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

UNDERGRADUATE Course Fees

*Note: A nonrefundable application processing fee of **$45** is required to process application materials.*

Term	Course	# of Credit Hours	Tuition ($412/hour)	Capital Improvement ($2.92/hour)	Field Fee	Lab Fee	Online Fee	Total Cost per Course
Session I: June Term	Barrier Island Ecology	3	$1,236	$8.76	$500	$60	---	**$1,804.76**
	Cetacean Behavior	3	$1,236	$8.76	$500	---	---	**$1,744.76**
	Elasmobranch Biology	6	$2,472	$17.52	$500	$60	---	**$3,049.52**
	Marine Science I: Oceanography	5	$2,060	$14.60	$500	$60	---	**$2,634.60**
	Marine Invertebrate Zoology	6	$2,472	$17.52	$500	$60	---	**$3,049.52**
	Marine Mammals (online)	5	$2,060	$14.60	---	---	$100	**$2,174.60**
	Research Study Program	1-6	$412/hour	$2.92/hour	---	---	---	**varies**
Session II: July Term	Marine Conservation	5	$2,060	$14.60	$500	$60	---	**$2,634.60**
	Marine Ichthyology	6	$2,472	$17.52	$800	$60	---	**$3,349.52**
	Marine Science II: Marine Biology	5	$2,060	$14.60	$500	$60		**$2,634.60**
	Marine Toxicology (online)	5	$2,060	$14.60	---	---	$100	**$2,174.60**
	Research Study Program	1-6	$412/hour	$2.92/hour	---	---	---	**varies**

GRADUATE Course Fees

*Note: A nonrefundable application processing fee of **$60** is required to process application materials.*

Term	Course	# of Credit Hours	Tuition ($550/hour)	Capital Improvement ($3.89/hour)	Field Fee	Lab Fee	Online Fee	Total Cost per Course
Session I: June Term	Elasmobranch Biology	6	$3,300	$23.34	$500	$60	---	**$3,883.34**
	Marine Invertebrate Zoology	6	$3,300	$23.34	$500	$60	---	**$3,883.34**
	Marine Mammals (online)	5	$2,750	$19.45	---	---	$100	**$2,869.45**
	Research Study Program	1-6	$550/hour	$3.89/hour	---	---	---	**varies**
Session II: July Term	Marine Conservation	5	$2,750	$19.45	$500	$60	---	**$3,329.45**
	Marine Ichthyology	6	$3,300	$23.34	$800	$60	---	**$4,183.34**
	Marine Toxicology (online)	5	$2,750	$19.45	---	---	$100	**$2,869.45**
	Research Study Program	1-6	$550/hour	$3.89/hour	---	---	---	**varies**

Students may enroll in a maximum of 6 credit hours of in-person coursework per term OR 10 credit hours of online coursework. If taking multiple courses, add the total cost for EACH course. All fees are subject to change without notice. Fees do not include books or supplies.

ROOM AND BOARD FEES *optional | All fees are subject to change without notice.

Onsite Dormitory and Dining Hall facility available providing optional room and board. The fee includes a shared room in a GCRL housing facility and meals during course dates. Please indicate your interest in room and board on your application. If you have specific questions about accommodations, please contact the GCRL housing manager, Martha Brown (martha.brown@usm.edu, 228.818.8824).

2025 GCRL Summer Field Program: Room & Board Fees			
Session	**Session I: June Term**	**Half of Session I: June Term (*one* 3 credit course)**	**Session II: July Term**
Fee	**$1,640**	**$820**	**$1,910**

Research Study Program

Available for Session I or II

SPECIAL PROBLEMS: RESEARCH

COA 492, 1 to 6 credit hours

Research Study Program allows upper-level undergraduate students an opportunity to gain valuable experience in designing a research project, sampling, analyzing data, and presenting research findings in coastal and marine science disciplines. *Prerequisites: 4 semesters of biology or permission of instructor*

APPLY NOW to the GCRL Summer Field Program!

ADMISSION DEADLINES

Early Selection

April 18, 2025

Final Deadline - All application materials **MUST** be submitted by

MAY 1, 2025

Application Checklist

- ☐ Fill out **online application** at *usm.edu/sfp.*
- ☐ Mail the nonrefundable **$45 application fee** *(non-USM undergraduate students)* to:
  Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
  Attn: Summer Field Program
  703 East Beach Drive
  Ocean Springs, MS 39564
  (Payable to The Universtiy of Southern Mississippi)
- ☐ Send **official transcript** *(electronic transcripts may be sent to sfp@usm.edu).*
- ☐ Submit copy of **immunization records** *(electronic copy to sfp@usm.edu).*

Scan here to apply today!

Graduate Students!

Visit
usm.edu/graduate-school
to APPLY and contact
sfp@usm.edu
for more information.

QUESTIONS?

sfp@usm.edu | usm.edu/sfp

228.818.8812

Scan here to check us out on YouTube.

GCRL Summer Field Program

The University of Southern Mississippi | School of Ocean Science and Engineering | Division of Coastal Sciences
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
703 East Beach Drive | Ocean Springs, MS 39564