

Combined Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies Master of Arts Degree in Marine Conservation and Policy

Undergraduate students interested in this program should apply for admission when they have at least 2 semesters left before graduating with their Bachelor's degree. The combined degree program is intended to prepare high-achieving students for professional employment or graduate studies in the fields of marine conservation and policy. Students must apply and be accepted into the combined degree program.

The minimum requirements to apply include completion of at least 60 credits of undergraduate college coursework and a grade point average of 3.0 or higher as an undergraduate student. 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:

1. First, meet with the undergraduate academic advisor, Ms. Nancy Black (Nancy.black@stonybrook.edu) to review your eligibility, and proposed timeline.
2. Next, meet with the Assistant Director of the MCP program, Ms. Kaitlin Giglio (Kaitlin.giglio@stonybrook.edu) to review your proposed timeline for your graduate coursework.
3. Finally, submit a personal statement and two letters of recommendation from SoMAS faculty to Ms. Christina Fink (christina.fink@stonybrook.edu) for review and processing by the graduate and undergraduate directors.

Once the student's application is approved, it will be sent to the Graduate School. Students accepted into this combined B.A./M.A. program may complete both degrees in approximately five years though the exact timing will depend on the student's progress.

After entering the combined degree program, combined degree students will take a mixture of undergraduate and graduate courses (no more than 6 graduate credits). The student must submit the "[Permission for Undergraduate Students in an Accelerated or Combined Degree Program to Enroll in Graduate Course](#)" form *prior* to enrolling in the relevant graduate courses. Once Graduate School approves the forms, they are sent to the Registrar's office for processing and enrollment in the relevant courses.

Matriculation into the Graduate Career

When a combined degree student has completed a minimum of 105 undergraduate credits, has taken the maximum allotted number of graduate credits as an undergraduate student (6), 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 Graduate Program Director for

advising and 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 undergraduate 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.

Students must complete all undergraduate coursework before the beginning of the 5th year, fall semester. After the 8th semester (during the summer), students may begin their capstone/internship research. Students MUST apply to graduate in spring of their final year in their Bachelor's. The student then must accept the offer of admission to the MA program and become a matriculated 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.A., potentially needing the following summer to complete the capstone/internship project. The two to three 500-level MAR courses taken during the student's senior (undergraduate) year may be counted toward required or elective requirements of the Undergraduate Marine Science or Atmospheric major.

[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.