

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARINE MAMMAL SCIENCE

## Master of Science in Marine Mammal Science

New College offers a Master's of Marine Mammal Science, under the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code 45.0102. The degree requires 48 credit hours of graduate work. Students complete 12 courses at 3 credit hours each, 4 courses at 1.5 credit hours each and two Independent Study Projects (ISP) in the month of January.

MIMMS Mission Statement: An interdisciplinary academic center providing research and graduate/undergraduate education of the highest quality in marine mammal science through the collaboration of experts and students dedicated to scientific excellence, marine mammal conservation, and outreach.

### Contact Us

Marine Mammal Science Program  
(941) 487-4930  
marmamsci@ncf.edu

## Application Requirements

1. Graduate Application (<https://apply.ncf.edu/apply/>) for the Master of Science in Marine Mammal Science program
2. Academic record (all post-secondary transcripts), with documentation of a bachelor's degree (or a documented forth-coming degree) from an accredited US college of university (or the foreign equivalent, as determined by a NACES-member transcript evaluation service). Students with academic records from a non-US colleges or universities should arrange for a professional evaluation (and translation, if necessary) of their transcripts by a NACES-member service.
3. Personal Statement with preferred area of interest
4. Letters of recommendation (2) from persons well situated to evaluate your qualifications for graduate study. The online application will ask you to enter your recommender's email addresses for the recommendation letter form to be sent to them.

### **Preferred, but not required**

1. Recent employment and/or academic experience (including fellowships, internships, research positions)
2. GRE, GRE Subject, or GMAT scores
3. Students who are not US citizens or US permanent Resident Aliens, and whose first language is not English, must provide proof of English proficiency. Typically, recent scores (within the past two years) will be required, as follows:
  1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): score of 83 or better on the TOEFL Ibt, or 560 on the Paper-Based TOEFL; or
  2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS): score of 6.5 or better; or

3. Recent records (within the past two years) of successful academic or professional work in a setting where English is the primary language in use may be considered as a substitute for the testing requirement.

The following are prerequisite undergraduate courses:

- Introduction to Statistics
- Introduction to Biology or Ecology or Psychology
- 2 upper-level Biology, Ecology, Psychology, or Statistics
- Intro to Chemistry (preferred)

\*Note: Students entering in AY 2024-25 receive tuition waivers.

## Master of Science in Marine Mammal Science

First Year	
Fall Term	Spring Term
MMS 5000 Statistics	Statistics
MMS 5010 Introduction to Marine Mammals	Introduction to Marine Mammals
Laboratory in Field of Study (individualized research with faculty)	Laboratory in Field of Study
The Art of the Thesis Proposal (January)	Seminar in Marine Mammal Science
MMS 5015 Seminar in Marine Mammal Science	

May-mester: Visiting Scholar Series (2-week, intensive electives taught by visiting experts)

Second Year	
Fall Term	Spring Term
Elective	Elective
Analyzing Data	Writing a Journal Article
Laboratory in Field of Study	Laboratory in Field of Study
Seminar in Marine Mammal Science	Seminar in Marine Mammal Science
The Art and Science of Writing a Thesis (January)	

Gordon Bauer (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/gordon-bauer/>), Ph.D., University of Hawaii, Manoa; Visiting Professor of Psychology (Emeritus)  
Interests: Biological Psychology, Animal Cognition & Behavior

Peter Cook (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/peter-cook/>), Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz; Associate Professor, Marine Mammal Science  
Interests: Animal Cognition, Comparative Neuroscience, Ecologically Valid Experimental Design, Memory and Structural and Functional Brain Connectivity

Heidi Harley (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/heidi-e-harley/>), Ph.D., University of Hawaii, Manoa; Faculty Chair, MIMMS / Peg Scripps Buzzeli Endowed Professor of Psychology  
Interests: Dolphin Cognition, Cognitive Psychology, Comparative Cognition

Athena Rycyk (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/athena-rycyk/>), Ph.D., Florida State University; Associate Professor, Marine Mammal Science

Interests: Sirenian Biology, including manatee-boat interactions, vocal communication and acoustic ecology

Amber Whittle (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/amber-whittle/>), Ph.D., University of Hawaii, Manoa; Director, MIMMS

Interests: Conservation, Research Science Administration, Grant Engagement