

# School of Marine Science

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

[www.vims.edu/sms](http://www.vims.edu/sms)



The problems affecting estuaries and the coastal ocean are formidable and continue to intensify as coastal populations grow.

Society's ability to cope with these problems depends largely on the efforts of appropriately trained scientists, managers, and policy makers. The goal of the School of Marine Science (SMS) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is to produce students optimally trained to study, understand, and manage the coastal environment.

About 130 students are currently enrolled in the SMS graduate program.



SMS students can concentrate in one of six areas: biology, environmental and aquatic animal health, fisheries science, and geological, chemical, or physical oceanography.

They are equally divided between Master of Science and Ph.D. candidates. Students are drawn from colleges and universities nationwide. International students make up about 10% of the student body.

Because coastal and estuarine research requires an interdisciplinary approach, first-year students take a series of core courses designed to provide broad-based knowledge in marine

science. Advanced students may take a wide variety of lecture, seminar, and laboratory courses. The Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at The College of William & Mary provides opportunities for students to work directly with faculty in economics, politics, law, and ethics.



More than 800 students have received an advanced degree in marine science during the Institute's 69-year history. Graduates find work at academic and research institutes; in management and regulatory agencies at the local, state and federal level; and in the private sector.



## Hall-Bonner Program for Minority Doctoral Scholars

The School of Marine Science is a partner with Hampton University, and Old Dominion University in the Hall-Bonner Program for Minority Doctoral Scholars in the Ocean Sciences. The program seeks to increase the diversity of students earning doctoral degrees in the marine and ocean sciences.

In addition to support provided by VIMS/SMS, Hall-Bonner Scholars are eligible to receive additional funding for tuition, research and travel and are expected to participate in a pre-enrollment summer that eases the transition to graduate studies and provides exposure to a variety of research experiences. As a part of the program, scholars participate in enrichment and career-building activities, including special seminars, research cruises, teaching, community-outreach, academic employment preparation and attendance of scientific society meetings.

For more information on the Hall-Bonner program, please visit:  
<http://www.hampton.edu/science/marine/hallbonner.htm>

To learn more about the Hall-Bonner Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, please contact:

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Most SMS students receive a stipend to cover each year of their graduate studies. Current stipends are \$18,800 per year for Master's students, and \$19,600 per year for Ph.D. candidates.

