

MARINE, ESTUARINE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (MEES)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

Abstract

The specific objective of the university-wide Graduate Program in Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences (MEES) is the training of qualified graduate students, working toward the M.S. or Ph.D. degree, who have research interests in fields of study that involve interactions between biological, physical and chemical systems in the marine, estuarine, freshwater or terrestrial environments. The MEES curriculum provides a balance of disciplinary strength and interdisciplinary perspective, designed for environmental issues in the 21st century. The MEES Curriculum is designed around four interdisciplinary Foundational Areas: 1) Environment and Society (<http://mees.umd.edu/environment-and-society-page/>); 2) Earth and Ocean Sciences (<http://mees.umd.edu/earth-ocean-sciences-page/>); 3) Ecological Systems (<http://mees.umd.edu/ecological-systems/>), and 4) Environmental Molecular Science and Technology (<http://mees.umd.edu/environmental-molecular-science-technology/>).

Financial Assistance

University fellowships, research assistantships and traineeships, and teaching assistantships are available. In general, aid provides for full living and educational expenses. Some partial assistance may also be available. Research support from federal, state, and private sources often provides opportunities for additional student support through either research assistantships or part-time employment on research projects.

Contact

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ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume

- Supplementary Application (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/gradschool.umd.edu/files/uploads/admissionsforms/umdsupplementaryapplicationmees.pdf>) (optional)
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)

It is particularly important that a student articulate clearly, in the application, a statement of goals and objectives for future work in the field. Because of the interdisciplinary and interdepartmental nature of the program, only students for whom a specific advisor is identified in advance can be admitted. Prior communication with the faculty in your choice Foundation is highly encouraged.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website: www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline	Spring Deadline	Summer Deadline
Domestic Applicants			
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 15, 2026	September 30, 2025	N/A
International Applicants			
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	January 15, 2026	September 30, 2025	N/A

Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at <http://www.mees.umd.edu>

REQUIREMENTS

- Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/marine-estuarine-environmental-sciences-mees/marine-estuarine-environmental-sciences-phd/>)
- Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/marine-estuarine-environmental-sciences-mees/marine-estuarine-environmental-sciences-ms/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Students may conduct their research in the laboratories and facilities of the College Park (UMCP), Baltimore (UMB), Baltimore County (UMBC), or Eastern Shore (UMES) campuses, in one of the laboratories of the University's Center for Environmental Studies (UMCES): the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) at Solomons, Maryland; the Horn Point Laboratory (HPL) near Cambridge, Maryland; and the Appalachian Laboratory (AL) in Frostburg, Maryland; or at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) in Baltimore. CBL and HPL are located on the Chesapeake Bay. They include excellent facilities for the culture of marine and estuarine organisms. Berthed at CBL are the University's research vessels. At HPL there are extensive marshes, intertidal areas, oyster shoals, tidal creeks, and rock jetties. AL, located in the mountains

of western Maryland, specializes in terrestrial and freshwater ecology. On the campuses and at IMET are specialized laboratory facilities for environmental research, including microbiology; biotechnology; water chemistry; cellular, molecular, and organismal biology; and specialized facilities for remote sensing of the environment. Extensive field sites for environmental research are available through the University's agricultural programs and through cooperation with many other organizations in the state.