Although the College of Marine Science does not offer an undergraduate degree, graduate courses in the college are open to advanced undergraduates in other natural science disciplines. In addition, the college has a number of courses specifically geared for undergraduates; consult the Schedule of Classes for course titles currently being offered. Some Marine Science courses are available on more than one campus by means of distance learning.

The College of Marine Science (CMS) at the University of South Florida offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Marine Science. The student may emphasize biological, chemical, geological, or physical oceanography, or develop an interdisciplinary program in Oceanography through course work and thesis or dissertation research. Satellite oceanography is a good example of such a program. More than 110 students are currently pursuing degrees under the direction of 25 full-time faculty. Study areas range from estuarine and near-shore systems to remote areas of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic. Additional information on faculty research and facilities is available at the CMS web site (http://www.marine.usf.edu) and from the college upon request.

The college is located on the campus of USF St. Petersburg which allows immediate access to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Bayboro Harbor is home port to the R/V Bellows (71 ft.) and the R/V Suncoaster (110 ft.). These vessels are operated by the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) for the entire State University System. One of the college’s principal buildings is shared with FIO and is adjacent to the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), the research arm of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A second research building is shared by CMS and FWRI and houses a remote-sensing, satellite data-acquisition center. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Center for Coastal Geology and Regional Studies, the office of the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program, FWRI, and the College of Marine Science are all located on the campus of USF St. Petersburg. A branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is also nearby. Consequently, St. Petersburg is home to one of the largest concentrations of marine scientists in the southeastern United States; many of these scientists serve on advisory committees of CMS graduate students.

Marine Science Faculty