

OCEANOGRAPHY, MINOR

College of Letters & Science

Oceanography is the study of the earth's oceans, investigating connections between geological, biological, chemical and physical processes in the marine realm, and the interactions between the Earth's ocean/atmosphere system. The interdisciplinary minor in oceanography is for students with backgrounds in any of these fields, as well as those interested in marine policy and conservation. The curriculum reflects the integrative nature of oceanography, with core courses covering the major disciplines in oceanography and elective courses that allow students to cater the minor to their interests. The oceanography minor includes courses taught at the Davis campus and courses offered at Bodega Marine Laboratory.

Students majoring in Geology (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/geology-bs/>) may elect to complete a minor in Geophysics, Environmental Geology, or Oceanography. They may not complete a minor in Geology.

Students majoring in Marine & Coastal Science (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/marine-coastal-science-bs/>) may elect to complete a minor in Geology, Geophysics, or Environmental Geology. They may not complete a minor in Oceanography.

The minor is sponsored by the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/>).

Advising

Visit the staff major advisor (<https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/>) for help navigating minor requirements, policies, prerequisites, and course offerings. Visit the faculty major advisors (<https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/>) for additional advice on courses, careers, and graduate school. Faculty Advisor: T. M. Hill.

Work with your major advisor and college advisors to fit a minor into your overall academic plan.

Declare your minor using the OASIS Minor Declaration form (<https://students.ucdavis.edu/forms/instructions/minordeclaration.aspx?sv=true>), due the quarter before graduation.

Code	Title	Units
GEL 116N/	Oceanography (Discontinued for fall 2026)	3
ESP 116N	DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026	

or EPS 116

Choose two:	7-8
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GEL/ESP 150A Physical & Chemical Oceanography

GEL/ESP 150B Geological Oceanography

GEL 150C/ Biological Oceanography (GEL 150C)

ESP 150C DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026

or EPS 150C

Choose additional courses from above and/or from the following list to reach at least 18 total units for the minor.	8
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ATM 121A Atmospheric Dynamics

ATM 121B Atmospheric Dynamics

ATM 158	Boundary-Layer Meteorology
ESP 124	Marine & Coastal Field Ecology *
ESP 152	Coastal Oceanography *
ETX 120	Perspectives in Aquatic Toxicology
ETX/NUT 127	Environmental Stress & Development in Marine Organisms *
EVE 106	Mechanical Design in Organisms (Discontinued for winter 2026) *,**
EVE 112	Biology of Invertebrates *
EVE 114	Experimental Invertebrate Biology *
EVE 115	Marine Ecology
GEL 108	Earth History: Paleoclimates
GEL 109	Earth History: Sediments & Strata (Discontinued for fall 2026) **
or EPS 109	
GEL 152	Paleobiology of Protista (Discontinued for winter 2026) **
WFC 120	Biology & Conservation of Fishes
WFC 157	Coastal Ecosystems

Total Units 18-19

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Course taught at Bodega Marine Laboratory.

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.