

Program Policy Statement

Marine Policy (MMP)

*School of Marine Science & Policy
College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment
University of Delaware*

October 2024

I. Program History & Purpose

A. Statement of Purpose

The Master's in Marine Policy (MMP) is a 2-year degree program that prepares students for careers in management, policy analysis, and administration in marine-oriented government agencies, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and businesses. It also prepared students for continuing to a PhD. The degree has a professional orientation but does include exposure research. The degree requires 27 credit hours of coursework and an analytical paper. Students choose from a broad array of electives (with an advisor's approval) to meet the needs of a desired career path. Student's are paired with a faculty member in the School of Marine Science and Policy (SMSP) for advising.

B. Date of Permanent Status

Active

C. Degree Offered

Masters in Marine Policy (MMP)

D. Term when first students may enroll

Program is currently active, students typically enroll in the fall semester but are able to enroll at any time.

E. Student demand for the program

Degree recipients typically find jobs in the government but some are placed in the private sector. The Bureau of Labor Statistics makes annual projections of job prospects in different fields. For

the field closest to Marine Policy, the projected growth rate is 5% through 2031. There are approximately a dozen masters degree programs in the world in marine policy.

F. College and School

School of Marine Science & Policy in the College of Earth Ocean and the Environment.
All relevant core faculty are on the Newark campus.

II. Admission

A. Admission Requirements

Admission to this program is competitive. It is based on grades, letters of recommendation and an application essay. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), to be considered for admission unless they qualify for the waiver of proof of English Proficiency as outlined by the Graduate College. A minimum score of 90 should be achieved by applicants taking the TOEFL IBT exam. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be taken in lieu of the TOEFL exam. The University of Delaware requires an overall band score of a 6.5 or higher on the IELTS with no individual Speaking score being less than 6. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be within the last two years. The Graduate Program does not require GRE scores. Any scores submitted voluntarily by students will be evaluated holistically but will not be used to determine graduate fellowships. The SMSP Graduate Committee evaluates each applicant for admission. The Committee reserves the right to interview applicants, but it is not required for admission.

B. Prior Degree Requirements

A four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) in any academic field from an accredited college or university is required.

C. Application Deadlines

December 1 for priority fall admission; July 1 for fall admission in special circumstances;
December 15 for spring admission in special circumstances.

D. Special Competencies

Applicants may come from any undergraduate/graduate major. Some coursework in the social sciences is helpful as is work experience in marine-related occupation.

E. Admission Categories

No categories other than regular admission

F. Other Documents

Applicants must submit the following:

- All official undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate transcripts
- A resume or curriculum vitae that documents prior work experience, publications, honors and awards received, and a summary of educational credentials.
- A personal statement laying out professional goals and reasons for applying
- Three letters of recommendation
- International student applications must include TOEFL (or IELTS) scores and certified English translation of all materials when applicable

G. University Statement

Admission to the graduate programs is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements (except the foreign language minimum) necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

III. Academic

A. Degree Requirements

1. Course Requirements

All students in the master of marine policy program are required to complete a minimum of 30 graduate credits. A course outside of the Marine Policy Program and the student's area of concentration is also required. Students pursuing this degree must write an analytical paper. Students may bypass the master's degree and work directly toward the PhD upon petition.

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Requirements</i> | <i>Credit Hours</i> |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <i>Law and Institutions</i> | MAST 660 International and National Ocean Policy | 3 |
| <i>Decision Analysis</i> | MAST 663 Decision Tools for Policy Analysis | 3 |
| <i>Economics</i> | Choose one of the following MAST 675 Natural Resource Economics MAST 676 Environmental Economics | 3 |

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|---|---|-----------|
| <i>Policy/Science/Economics/Law (PSEL) Electives</i> | Four or more courses in policy, science, economics, and law. Courses must be approved by the advisor and the Graduate Committee. Courses form a coherent course of study across or focusing in the areas of policy, science, economics, or law. | 12 |
| <i>Science Elective</i> | Natural/Physical science course approved by advisor. Typically a MAST course. | 3 |
| <i>Research Methods</i> | One course in a research method such as statistics, survey research, and/or case study methods. Courses must be approved by the advisor and the Graduate Committee. | 3 |
| <i>Analytical Paper</i> | MAST 865 Analytical Paper | 3 |
| | TOTAL CREDIT HOURS | 30 |

2. Other Requirements

Residency

Students are expected to be in residence for the fall and spring semesters for two years.

Qualifying Exams

There is no qualifying exam.

English Proficiency

English proficiency is required. All written and oral communication is in English.

Other

There is no portfolio, language, teaching, or internship requirement.

3. Procedure for petitions for variance in degree requirements

All petitions for variances in the degree requirements are handled by the SMSP Graduate Committee. Requests must be made in writing to the Chair of the Graduate Committee. The request should explain why the variance is sought and include written support from at least one SMSP faculty member. The committee reviews the request and issues a written determination for the student's record.

Students who have formed an advisory committee and who have completed a thesis proposal may petition for admission to a PhD program within three semesters of matriculation in the School. This is known as the *bypass option*. Petitioning students must submit evidence of high performance to the advisory committee. Ordinarily, this evidence includes excellent grades in

graduate courses, promising research results, and sound plans for dissertation research. The following steps are necessary for approval of a bypass petition:

- Chair of the advisory committee sends a letter of support on behalf of the committee to the relevant representative of the Graduate Committee.
- The representative of the standing Graduate Committee forwards the approved letter to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Services and the Director of the School.
- Director of the School approves the bypass.
- The student submits a completed “Change of Classification” form to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Services, which must be signed and forwarded to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education
- Student continues as a PhD student

4. Grade minimums

Minimums follow university policy.

5. Courses which may not be used towards the degree

All required course credits will be used toward the degree. Electives must be approved by an advisor.

6. Identify expectations of facility of expression in English (oral and written) as part of the degree requirement.

English proficiency is required. All written and oral communication is in English.

B. Committees for exams, thesis, or dissertations

1. Procedure for advisor and advisement

A faculty advisor is assigned to each incoming MMP student. The assignment is based on research interests and is done with the agreement of the student and the faculty member. The advisor may be changed at any time during a student’s tenure. This is done in consultation with the current advisor and the proposed new advisor. The change must be approved by the School Director.

2. Committee requirement

There is no committee

3. Deadlines for establishing and preparation for comprehensive examinations

There is no comprehensive examination.

4. Policies for dates of examinations, grading of committee examinations and retake options

There is no committee. There is no comprehensive exam.

5. Guidelines for approving research proposals involving human subjects.

Any research proposals involving human subjects must abide by all regulations and requirements set by the university and approval documentation should be submitted alongside the proposal for the dissertation.

6. Procedures for analytical paper approval in the department

A student must write an analytical paper. The analytical paper is an article-length paper targeting publication in a policy journal. The paper is written under the direction of and evaluated by the student's advisor. The paper is approved when the assigned faculty member submits a grade for MAST 865 Analytical Paper. The faculty member has the option of requiring a presentation of the analytical paper in a seminar or conference setting. Actual publication is not required.

7. Departmental and student obligations for finding committee members

There is no MMP committee.

8. Departmental and student obligations and procedures for change in committee members

There is no MMP committee.

C. Timetable and definition of satisfactory progress toward degree

1. Academic load, normal progress, and evaluation of performance

All required coursework is completed in two years. All study is full-time.

Normal progress for the MMP:

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|---|---|
| <u>Fall – Year 1 (9 credit hours)</u> MAST 663 Decision Tools MAST 675 Nat Res Economics MAST 660 International & National MP | <u>Fall – Year 2 (7 credit hours)</u> PSEL Elective #3 PSEL Elective #4 Research Methods Elective |
| <u>Spring – Year 1 (10 credit hours)</u> Science Elective PSEL Elective #1 | <u>Spring – Year 2 (4 credit hours)</u> MAST 865 MP Analytical Paper |

| | |
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| PSEL Elective #2 | |
|------------------|--|

The student completes a progress report at the end of each academic year and submits it to the Graduate Committee and the advisor. The Chair of the Graduate Committee and the advisor evaluate the progress of the student and communicate to the student if the progress is less than satisfactory. The advisor also communicates to the student the actions that must be taken to make progress satisfactory.

2. Grade requirements

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. There are no specific departmental or course grade requirements.

3. & 4. Analytical paper progress timetable and defense guidelines

The faculty advisor for the Analytical Paper is identified no later than the end of fall semester in the first year and may be different than the originally assigned advisor. If a new advisor is selected, that advisor assumes all advising responsibilities. The paper is due in the spring semester of the second year. There is no defense of the analytical paper but the advisor may require a public presentation for fulfillment of the Analytical Paper.

5. Forms required.

- Annual Progress report submitted to the Graduate Committee ([Link](#))
- Application for Advanced Degree ([Link](#))

6. Consequence for failure to make satisfactory progress

A student who is not making satisfactory progress will be issued a written warning. The warning will identify steps to make satisfactory progress and indicate the consequences of unsatisfactory progress. After a second semester of unsatisfactory progress, the student is issued a second warning, again with steps required to make satisfactory progress. After three semesters of unsatisfactory progress, the student will be recommended for dismissal. All graduate students are subject to the University of Delaware Graduate Probation and Dismissal Policy, as stated in the University Catalog under the protocol for grievance procedure if a student has been recommended for termination for failure to make satisfactory progress.

7. Protocol for grievance procedure

A student that has been recommended for dismissal for failure to make satisfactory progress may file a grievance based on Graduate College policies.

IV. Program Educational Goals

The objective of the degree is to train policy analysts with a practical orientation and an ability to provide information useful in the marine policy-making process. Students that complete the Marine Policy MMP will be able to:

- Demonstrate a background in the law and institutions governing marine policy
- Understand public policy, the policy process, and policy analysis
- Understand marine issues in the context of policy analysis
- Structure problems, understand context and explore alternative solutions
- Critically evaluate and interpret literature
- Develop professional oral and written communication skills
- Develop group management and task management skills

These learning objectives are manifest in the requirements for the MMP student. They are measured directly in the courses through assignments and oral presentations, project reports and final examinations. Success in the capstone course is measured by the external sponsor, selected core SMSP faculty, and students in written evaluations. Since the capstone course is a real-world policy experience, this assessment is critical. Each year the relevant policy faculty meet at the end of the spring semester to evaluate what worked and what did not in the capstone experience and to prepare next year's capstone. Through that learning process, the capstone experience is continually updated and improved to meet the goals of the degree. We also plan to communicate with other programs using the capstone approach to learn from them.

V. Financial Aid

A. Financial Awards

1. Awards

Fellowships, research assistantships and teaching assistantships are offered to highly qualified applicants on a competitive basis. Typically, these financial arrangements cover full-time tuition and include a separate stipend. The research assistantships are usually funded through external funding. Support is contingent on available funds and students may elect to self-fund their study.

2. Responsibilities of students on contract

Students receiving full funding are expected to work up to 20 hours per week on faculty projects, and students are expected to maintain full-time status.

3. Evaluation of students on contract

The School Director and faculty member providing funding (typically the student's advisor) will review each student after each semester in terms of progress toward degree and performance on the project. Students will be given feedback if progress and/or performance is not satisfactory. After two semesters of unsatisfactory progress or performance, the contract may be terminated.

VI. Departmental Operations

A. General student responsibilities

It is the student's responsibility to satisfy all University requirements described in the Academic Regulations for Graduate Students section in the Graduate Catalog, as well as any additional requirements established by the faculty in the academic program in which the student is enrolled. All students enrolled at the University of Delaware are subject to student life policies set by the University and documented in the University publication, [Student Guide to University Policies](#).

B. Student government and organizations

Students will have the opportunity to participate in graduate student governments for the School and the University. Students will be introduced to major professional associations or groups relevant to their research field.

C. Travel for professional meetings and presentations

Students' attendance at professional meetings is strongly encouraged. Travel for professional meetings will typically be sponsored by the student's advisor. The SMSP also provides travel funds for students, as well as the UD Graduate College.