

## Highlights for Marine Science Advisement

**Please encourage your advisees to have their senior records check in Flinn Hall BEFORE their final semester begins!**

**Registration for Fall 2016 courses begins April 11. Students must bring their signed advisement sheets to PSC 108 before they will be cleared for registration.**

### A. Helpful websites:

**Self Service Carolina:** To see academic information for your advisees, log into Self Service Carolina (<http://my.sc.edu>), click Faculty Services, then Student Information, then Advisee List: you will see all of your advisees with easy links to their transcripts and test scores. You can also easily email all of your advisees through this portal.

**SEOE Advisement:** Includes Advisement FAQs, degree checklists, and commonly requested forms <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/seoe/undergrad/>

**B. MSCI core courses:** All majors must pass MSCI 101, 102, 311, 313 and 314 with at least a C. Students who passed the lab portion but not the lecture portion of any of these courses must repeat the entire 4-credit course.

**C. Progression Requirement:** Students have only two chances to earn a C or higher in the following courses: MATH 141 and 142; CHEM 111/L and 112/L; PHYS 201/L or 211/L; PHYS 202/L or 212/L. Withdrawal with a W does not count as one of those chances. Furthermore, these courses must be completed before the start of the student's third academic year (fifth major semester) as a marine science major. Students not completing this progression requirement may be required to change majors or petition for an extension. Please encourage your students to fulfill this requirement, even if it means taking summer courses here or elsewhere.

**D. CHEM 111:** Note that MATH 115 is a required prerequisite for CHEM 111. Students will no longer be allowed to take MATH 115 and CHEM 111 at the same time. Also note that students must now register for CHEM 111 and CHEM 111L separately (the 4-credit course has been split into 3- and 1-credit courses.) Students must register for the lecture and the lab at the same time, checking one box for each on the right side of the registration screen before submitting, or they will get a 'missing pre-requisite' error message.

**E. Physics 201-202 or 211-212:** Students may take either PHYS 201/201L & 202/202L or PHYS 211/211L & 212/212L. They will receive **major** credit for PHYS 212/212L. The Marine Science Program accepts any combination of the 200 level Physics courses as long as a full year is completed. For example, students who have taken PHYS 211/211L may complete the requirement with PHYS 202/202L. Students who passed PHYS 211L or 212L, but not the lecture, can switch to PHYS 201 or 202 and do not need to take the lab.

**F. ENVR 548:** Students with an emphasis in Marine Policy/Coastal Resource Management must take ENVR/ECON 548 Environmental Economics. Note that this course now has a prerequisite of ECON 222, 223 or 224.

**G. Withdrawals:** Once a student enrolls in a course, he or she must complete the course at a USC campus. For instance, if a student withdraws from Math 141, or receives a D or F, he or she must retake MATH 141 at USC Columbia or a regional campus (Sumter, Lancaster, Salkehatchie or Union) although he may opt to take MATH 142 elsewhere. Students who are struggling to pass

MATH 141 or CHEM 111 may take the second course in the sequence (MATH 142 or CHEM 112) elsewhere (i.e. at home or Midlands Tech). Some students who have struggled to pass MATH 142 at USC Columbia found it easier and less stressful at USC Sumter; students with a car can take that course concurrently with other courses at the Columbia campus by completing a Transient Enrollment Form (see 'F' above).

**H. “Performance” Courses:** Many courses in Music, Theater, and Physical Education (including SCUBA) do not count toward the 128 semester hours needed for graduation. In general, music and theater appreciation or history (3 credits) will count, but learning to play an instrument or to act (1 credit) will not.

**I. Senior records check:** You should help your advisees who **have completed 90 hours** or are **within two semesters of graduation** to fill out a major program card and set up an appointment with Cammie Steele in the Dean’s office for a senior records check. We have tried to identify these students and have attached blank major program cards where applicable. Students who wait until their final semester for a senior records check may find themselves short a class and therefore unable to graduate. Note that the total number of credits earned on the transcript will include PEDU courses, those exempted under grade forgiveness, and major courses with grades lower than ‘C’; but those courses will not count toward the total number required for graduation.

**J. Transfer Credit for ENGL 102:** Under the Carolina Core, ENGL 102 has an Information Literacy component not taught at other schools. Students who take ENGL 102 elsewhere should take LIBR 101 (1 credit) to meet the INF requirement.

**K. Statistics, Computer Science:** All MSCI students are required to take CSCE 102 or higher, and STAT 515. Statistics 515 does NOT count for major credit. Note that the prerequisite for STAT 515 has changed to a C or higher in MATH 122 or MATH 141, or both MATH 111 or higher and any statistics class.

(Note: **MSCI 305** (Ocean Data Analysis) can fulfill the computer science requirement by petition; in such cases, MSCI 305 will **NOT** count for major credit. Likewise, Dr. Pinckney’s **MSCI 599F Data Collection Analysis and Methods** can satisfy the Statistics requirement, but in that event it would not count for major credit. Students wishing to apply one or both of these courses to their Carolina Core requirements must complete a petition form in PSC 108.)

**L. MSCI Course Prerequisites:**

Course	Prerequisites
101 The Ocean Environment	MSCI or ENVR major or minor
102 The Living Ocean	MSCI or ENVR major or minor
305 Ocean Data Analysis	MSCI 101 and 102; MATH 141 strongly recommended
311 Biology of Marine Organisms	MSCI 102 or BIOL 101
313 Chemistry of the Sea	MSCI 101, MATH 142, CHEM 112
314 Physical Oceanography	MSCI 101, MATH 142, PHYS 201 or 211
390 Science & Environ Policy	MSCI 311 or BIOL 301
460 Field & Lab Investigations	MSCI 311, 313 and 314
536 Ichthyology	MSCI 311 or BIOL 301
624 Aquatic Chemistry	CHEM 321, MATH 142, or consent of instructor

- M. MSCI 460:** Due to a clarification of federal financial aid regulations, MSCI 460 Field & Lab Investigations is now a summer course. Beginning Spring 2017 students will enroll in the course in April, when they register for fall and/or other summer courses; seniors who need this course to graduate will graduate in August and will have the option to walk in May or December if they complete the required forms. Students can also satisfy their field experience requirement via an alternate route (see below).
- N. Field Experience Requirement:** All MSCI majors are required to undertake a minimum of three weeks of field effort. Possibilities include MSCI 460, semester or summer internship, REU, semester at sea, or faculty-sponsored research or cruise. Students opting for an alternate to MSCI 460 must submit the Field Experience Worksheet prior to the experience and a short (2-3 page minimum) description afterwards to Sheri Foxworth in PSC 108; the Undergraduate Director will review and notify the Dean's office of the substitution. Students will not normally receive course credit hours for their field experience but may combine this requirement with independent study credit as appropriate (see below). Students traveling abroad must discuss their options with the Study Abroad Office even if they aren't seeking academic credit for the experience.
- O. Transient enrollment:** Students wishing to take summer courses at another USC campus or another college must complete a Transient Enrollment Form (AS-30), available in PSC 108 or on the Registrar's website (under 'Forms'). The form requires signatures from the student, the advisor, and Dean Knapp, and must be completed before the student can enroll in the course.
- P. Independent Study:** MSCI 399, 496, 497, 498, 499 are all counted as independent study. A maximum of 9 semester hours of such courses count as major credit. In order for a field or research experience to qualify for independent study credit, the experience must demonstrate that the student completed clearly definable, independent research. While it is anticipated that independent study credit will be undertaken while the student is engaged in an unpaid position (and thus demonstrating independent research), there may be unique situations when a competitive internship, REU, or some other paid position results in such clearly defined, independent research that credit may be sought for these experiences on a case by case basis. Students pursuing independent study credit must complete an Independent Study Contract, available on the Registrar's website (under 'Forms') or in PSC 108.
- Q. Academic Common Market:** Students attending USC via the Academic Common Market must be enrolled full-time, with MSCI as their primary major, or risk their in-state tuition eligibility. Concerned students are encouraged to speak with Sheri Foxworth in PSC 108.
- R. Placement tests:** No student can register for a math course without first taking an online placement exam (or showing proof of transfer credit for prerequisite math coursework.) Students who place into MATH 141 may still take MATH 115 first to strengthen background and will receive credit. The Math department also offers an accelerated course, MATH 116, which lasts for half a semester and is specially designed for students who placed into Calculus but feel they first need a refresher to succeed in it.

Students wishing to take a foreign language at anything other than the first/beginner level must first take a placement exam in that language. Placement exams are offered on campus at the beginning of each semester. Students will not receive academic credit if they take a course lower than the level at which they placed. Students who are already proficient in a language other than

English should contact the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures to inquire about exemption from the foreign language requirement.

**S. Confidentiality:** As advisors, you should be aware that it is a violation of a student's right to privacy for you to reveal any information regarding the student's performance to anyone outside the university without expressed consent of the student. This includes addresses, phone numbers, transcript information or even their performance in your course. **Under Federal Law, parents do not have access to this information without the student's written consent.** Refer requests to the Office of the Registrar.

**T. Disabilities, Emotional Problems:**

1. Students with physical or learning disabilities should contact Student Disability Services at (7-6142)
2. For students with emotional problems (e.g., depression tendencies), refer to the Counseling and Human Development Center, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Byrnes, (7-5223). For severely distressed individuals contact the Behavioral Intervention Team (7-4333).

**U. Research Opportunities:** PLEASE encourage students to get involved!! Help them to determine career goals, secure positions in faculty research labs, find out about summer internships and REUs, to actively participate in research opportunities within the program and university in general and to investigate study abroad or take summer field courses.

**V. Grade Forgiveness:** It is the policy of the University of South Carolina that every currently enrolled fully-admitted, degree-seeking undergraduate earning a "D+", "D", "F" or "WF" in a USC course may take up to two (2) undergraduate courses for a second time for the purpose of grade forgiveness. Both the first and second grades shall appear on the USC permanent record, but only the second grade will be used in computing the University of South Carolina cumulative grade point average. An explanatory notice will appear on the record. Once grade forgiveness is applied to a repeated course, the action may not be revoked.

Eligible students wishing to apply the course grade forgiveness policy to a course enrollment may do so at any time during his/her undergraduate enrollment, but no applications will be honored after the degree is awarded. Grade forgiveness can only be applied once per course for a maximum of two courses (not to exceed 8 credits) on a student's undergraduate academic record, without regard to the number of degrees sought.

For a course taken the first time before the Fall 2012 semester, the forgiven and repeated class must both be taken at the same USC campus. The grade forgiveness policy was revised for 2012-13, so that for a course taken the first time during or after the Fall 2012 semester, the original course (first attempt) and the second attempt in the same course may be taken at the USC-Columbia campus or a USC regional campus (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter or Union). This does not apply to courses taken at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort and USC Upstate. Courses transferred from other institutions are excluded from this policy.

This policy does not preclude students from repeating classes multiple times, in accordance with program requirements, but only the second attempt at the class may forgive the original grade of D+, D, F, or WF. Only a regular letter grade can replace a forgiven grade. Grades of "W", "I", "S", "U", or "AUDIT" may not replace previous grades. Grades carrying an honor code violation sanction of "X" are not eligible for grade forgiveness.

Grade forgiveness does not apply to courses taken prior to Fall 2007.