A Masters of Science in Your Field

Description
Usually a M.S. degree in marine science is a stepping stone to either a Ph.D. in marine science or as a job as a technician or consultant. The M.S. degree can also be used to begin a career in marine education. This M.S. degree differs from a masters in education in that it usually involves writing a thesis based on original research.

Entrance Requirements
To qualify for a masters program in marine science, you must have either a B.S. or B.A. in marine science or have completed coursework in marine science. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required. You will probably be more competitive with a dual major or minor in your undergraduate degree. There are also GPA requirements that vary from institution to institution, but are usually a 3.0 or "B" level grade average. Finally, you will need to have graduated the recent graduate exam, see the GRE page for more information, and have the scores that vary between institutions. You should try to score at the very least a 500 on the math and verbal sections for a combined score of 1000.

Estimated time for completion
Estimated time for completing is about two years usually including one summer.

Cost
Cost varies among institutions and also depends greatly on whether you are in-state or out-of-state resident. Assistantships are also available at institutions to help cover costs. Check outlink to graduate programs at the school of your choice to view costs. See also the chart section, many research assistants are now advertised on job web pages. By way of example, students of CCU can use $8,000 per graduate credit if they are an assistantship. Teaching and research assistants also typically provide about $6,000 to $12,000 per year to cover living costs. Some assistantships also cover all of the tuition costs. In general, the better your GRE scores and GPA, the more competitive you will be for assistantships. Pros include that you will have a hard-core science degree. You will have more contact time with faculty and research and also be able to demand a higher salary. Estimation of increased salary can be up to $2,000 to $3,000 annually. You will be able to teach at the college level as an instructor.

Cons
Some negative are that you will still have to get certified to teach at the pre-college level, which will cost you more time and money. You can also earn the same salary with a master’s in education. The masters of science is probably more work and more stressful as you must generate a thesis based on original research.

Future Advancement Potential
Although there is no guarantee of pursuing a Ph.D. in marine science, the M.E. degree is a valuable tool. You will probably have an easier time in taking advantage of new trends in science education as you will have a broader content background and more technical expertise.

Certification Pathways Teaching Certification
This is an especially great time to consider a career in marine education because of the national focus on improving teaching in science, mathematics and engineering. As a result, many new types of jobs are now available and many new programs are being designed to involve teachers and their students in hands-on marine science. A few examples are: Click on the link under Certification Pathways to read more about these new and fascinating opportunities. The main focus of these web pages is to provide guidance in preparing you for a career in the “formal” and “informal” settings for marine education. The formal path can be separated into the following three levels of teaching:

A.College
B. Pre-College; High School, Middle, and Elementary
C. Pre-college; Administration

The third level (administration) recognizes that after a few years of teaching, you will become interested in more challenging positions, such as becoming the director of an educational program or center or even a school principal. You need to think about the advancement potential you will experience in your career, so we have attempted to provide information on this subject.

Several career development pathways exist to enter and advance in the field of marine science education. Click on the links under Training Routes, Certification Pathways and Educational Administration to learn more about these topics. These pages will provide comprehensive routes so you can plan for the best fit for your personal interests and circumstances. Since only a few pre-college schools have formal courses in marine science, you should try to obtain as much multi-disciplinary training and certification as possible, so you can teach as many different kinds of science, and even math, classes as possible.

We've also included a page that answers frequently asked questions. If you're interested in learning more about committed careers and postgraduate training opportunities, click on our careers section. You'll also find information from some of the top professionals in the field of Marine Education and become familiar with the personal experiences of those who have gone before you. You'll also find helpful job descriptions for many professional organizations where marine educators are needed. We hope you find this site useful.

Finally, avenues for career advancement in educational administration are also provided to enable potential educators to envision long-term career options in management such as directors of marine education programs, school principals, etc.