BATTEN SCHOOL OF COASTAL & MARINE SCIENCES & VIMS

William & Mary's Batten School of Coastal & Marine Sciences & VIMS are unique among coastal and marine science institutions. As a state agency, VIMS has a legal mandate to provide research, education and advisory service to government, citizens and industry. In the Batten School, graduate students have an unparalleled opportunity to conduct research that matters. Research at the Batten School & VIMS extends from inland watersheds to the open ocean, with an emphasis on coastal and estuarine science.

W&M's Batten School & VIMS rank among the top coastal and marine science institutions in the U.S. and currently offers two graduate research degrees (Ph.D. and M.S.), a professional master's degree (M.A.), and an undergraduate degree (B.S.). Additionally, an undergraduate minor is offered in collaboration with W&M's College of Arts & Sciences.

The Coastal & Marine Sciences major offers students a robust interdisciplinary foundation in the science of estuaries and coasts, with student engagement across biological, physical, and social dimensions. The program combines rigorous scientific training with applied learning in coastal systems, public policy, and sustainability.

The program prepares graduates for careers and further study in marine and environmental science, public policy, education, conservation, and related fields. All undergraduate Coastal & Marine Sciences majors take a common core curriculum. Typically, in the fall semester of their junior year, newly admitted majors participate in an immersive semester at VIMS, located in Gloucester Point, VA. Round trip daily transportation is provided from the main campus to VIMS during the immersion semester.

Admission to the Major Program

Current W&M students wanting to declare a major in Coastal & Marine Sciences will be required to apply for competitive admission to the program. Students should apply to the major program prior to the start of the spring semester of their sophomore year, with the intention of entering the major program in the fall semester of their junior year.

Students admitted to the Coastal & Marine Sciences major will be required to participate in our fall semester immersion experience at the W&M's Batten School & VIMS campus during their first semester in the major program (generally fall of junior year). The immersion semester provides majors with a fully engaged, cohort-based, learning environment which incorporates numerous field and laboratory experiences across their integrated courses.

Freshmen, sophomores, and transfer students are strongly encouraged to review the curriculum to ensure

1. the necessary marine science proficiency courses (those courses that are prerequisite courses for required immersion semester courses) will be completed prior to the start of their fall immersion semester experience, and
2. junior academic standing (54 earned credit hours) is attained prior to the start of the immersion semester.

Details on the major program admission process, including application deadlines, can be found on the Batten School & VIMS website: https://www.vims.edu/academics/

Contact our Undergraduate Program Director, Prof. Christopher Hein, for more information.

Programs

Program	School	Degree	Academic Level
Coastal & Marine Sciences (BS in Coastal & Marine Sciences)	School of Coastal & Marine Sciences	Bachelor of Science	Undergraduate
Coastal & Marine Sciences, Minor	School of Coastal & Marine Sciences	Minor	Undergraduate