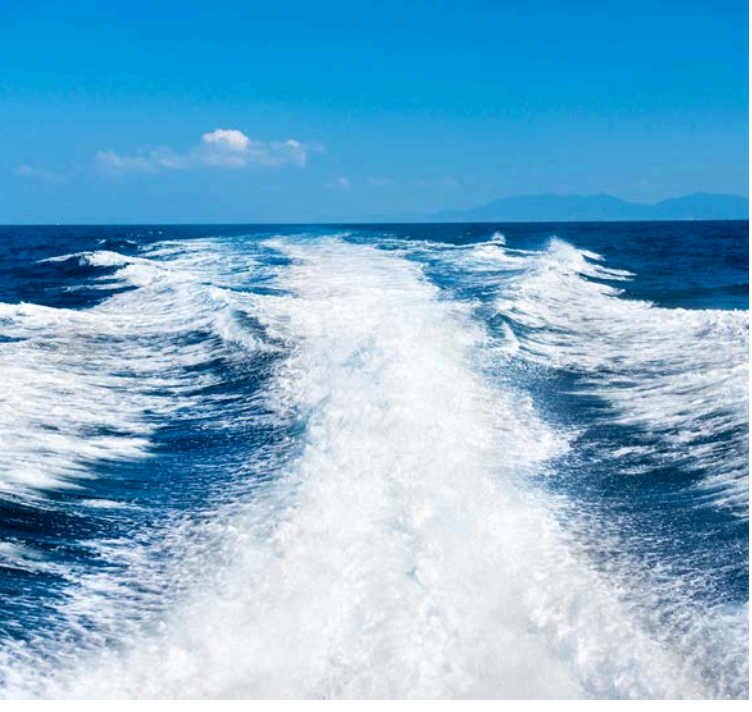


COLLEGE OF EARTH, OCEAN, AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

M.S. AND PH.D. IN PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY

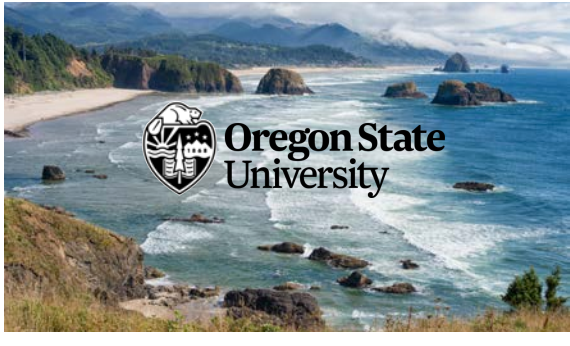
At Oregon State University, students in our graduate program in Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences can choose a concentration in Physical Oceanography. All OEAS students are part of an interdisciplinary degree program that imparts a deep understanding of biological, chemical, geological and physical processes in marine and terrestrial environments.

During the first year, students take a course on descriptive physical oceanography and a comprehensive 3-quarter course sequence on geophysical fluid dynamics. Then, students choose from courses on turbulence, geophysical waves, stability of geophysical fluid flows, coastal and estuarine oceanography and more.

Areas of interest include:
Turbulence and ocean mixing • Internal waves and nonlinear dynamics • Coastal processes • Climate and large-scale dynamics • Numerical modelling • Instrumentation development • Remote sensing techniques

Application deadline:
Apply by December 15 for enrollment in the subsequent fall term. For more information, contact gradadvisor@ceoas.oregonstate.edu

Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Program



Why OSU?

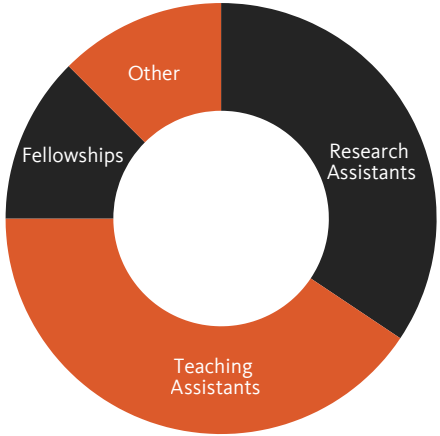
Low debt load: As a result of attending our programs, a majority of graduates report having accrued less than $5k in debt.

Employment: Our students' post-graduation rate of employment is high, and most students find work in their field within six months of completion.

Average time to completion:
M.S.: 2 years
Ph.D.: 5.5 years

No GRE: CEOAS no longer requires the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test for admission into graduate programs.

Graduate Student Support



Assistantships includes salary, tuition and health insurance.

Recent Theses

Evaporation processes in marine boundary layer downdrafts inferred from stable water vapor isotopes (2023)

Semidiurnal Atmospheric Tide Driven Superinertial Oscillation on the Texas-Louisiana Shelf (2023)

Detection of Physical and Biological Fronts in the Northern California Current System and the Drivers Behind Their Seasonal to Interannual Variability (2022)

Vertical Coastal Trapped Wave Propagation Produced by a Subsurface Ridge (2019)

Kinematics and Dynamics of a Model Eastern-boundary Poleward Undercurrent (2019)