MARINE, ESTUARINE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.)

Thesis option only: 30 credits

A minimum of 30 credits with 24 credits of course work and 6 credits of graduate research, MEES799. Of the 24 course credits, 12 of them must be at the 600 level or higher; including MEES601.

Initial Advisory Meeting

A three member Research Advisory Committee is to be formed during the first semester and meets with the student to discuss the student's progress (mainly coursework, but also basic research interests). A report of this meeting must be filed with the MEES Program Office by the end of the student's second semester (Form can be found here (https://www.mees.umd.edu/s/Initial-Advisory-Committee-Rpt-Foundation.pdf)).

Annual Committee Report

Every year that the student is in residence, committee meetings are to be held in order for the committee to review academic and research progress. Reports of these meetings are due annually to the MEES Program by September 30th. Annual Committee Report Forms can be found here. (https://www.mees.umd.edu/s/Annual-Report-Form.pdf)

Thesis

An Oral Defense of the Thesis, administered according to Graduate School regulations, will take place at the completion of the research project. This defense will be conducted by the Advisory Committee and will be administered once all other degree requirements have been fulfilled.

The Thesis Defense will generally last no longer than two hours, but the time will be long enough to ensure an adequate examination. The Research Advisory Committee also approves the thesis, and it is the candidate's obligation to see that each member of the committee has at least two weeks in which to examine a copy of the thesis prior to the time of the defense.

The Research Advisory Committee may conclude that the candidate has passed or failed. A student may be conditionally passed with the provision that minor changes in the thesis be made and approved by the Major Advisor. A student who fails may at the discretion of the committee and with approval of the MEES Director and the appropriate Graduate School be permitted to stand a second defense after acting on suggestions for improvement of the thesis (collection of more data, use of different statistical analysis, rewriting of the discussion, etc.), at such time as the advisor considers appropriate. Once the thesis has been successfully defended, one copy must be supplied to the MEES Office in addition to the copies required by the Graduate School.

More information can be found on the MEES program website (https://www.mees.umd.edu/current-ms-req-1/).

Course	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		
30 credits of coursework including:		30
MEES799	Masters Thesis Research	
MEES601	Applied Environmental Science (Applied Environmental Sciences)	
One seminar for each year of residence in program		
Two professional development courses		
Foundation options:		
Students select one of the following foundations and complete the requirements:		
Environment and Society:		
MEES620	Environment, Health, and Society	
Electives		
Earth & Ocean Science:		
MEES640	Interconnected Earth Systems: Land, Ocean, and Estuary	
Electives		
Ecological Systems:		
MEES660	Ecological Systems	
Electives		
Environmental Molecular Science & Technology:		
MEES680	Cell and Molecular Biology for the Environmental Scientist- From Genes to Ecosystems	
Electives		
Total Credits		**30**