Program Overview
The Oceanography program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree is unique to California. It is designed to prepare the student for a career as an ocean scientist, collecting, processing, and interpreting scientific data from marine and other aquatic environments. Employment opportunities are most notably in federal, state, educational, or private agencies which conduct basic and/or applied scientific research. The broad, rigorous, science background which is acquired by our majors also provides excellent preparation for those seeking graduate study in Oceanography or other closely related fields.

Why HSU?
Our program takes advantage of a wide variety of near-shore and open ocean environments which exist in close proximity to our main campus and our marine laboratory in the town of Trinidad, CA. These locales provide excellent natural laboratories which are frequently utilized in our course curriculum. Oceanographic voyages aboard HSU’s fleet of small boats and its 90’ research vessel, the R/V Coral Sea, are also a standard part of our courses. In addition, oceanography faculty are intimately involved in research projects which integrate students into the fundamental scientific discovery of the ocean through optional independent study, volunteer, and internship positions.

Course work in the major includes a breadth of fundamental science courses and a series of core courses which focus on fundamental concepts unique to the field. Students develop a strong appreciation for how concepts from closely allied science fields are interrelated and applied to the solution of oceanographic problems. Our goal is to develop as fully as possible an interdisciplinary train of thought which is essential to the study and understanding of our oceans. At the same time, students can acquire in-depth knowledge in a science field closely related to Oceanography (e.g., biology, chemistry, geology, physics, or mathematics) via a sequence of electives.

For more information
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Bachelor of Science
Major in Oceanography
Minor

Related Careers
Aquaculture Technician
Aquatic Biologist
Aquatic Chemist
Biogeochemist
Biological Technician
Biological Oceanographer
Biophysicist
Chemical Oceanographer
Environmental Specialist
Environmental Planner
Engineering Geologist
Geological Oceanographer
Geophysicist
Hydrographic Surveyor
Hydrologist
Marine Biologist
Marine Chemist
Marine Geochemist
Marine Geophysicist
Marine Naturalist
Marine Technician
Marine Research Assistant
Meteorologist
Ocean Technician
Oceanographer
Physical Oceanographer
Physical Science Technician
Research Assistant
Scientific Officer
Seismic Engineer
Water Quality Analyst

Some of the careers listed may require additional or specialized coursework.

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2019-20 Academic Year