



Directions for Undergraduate Program Director Reports:

1. Talk to students in your major, ask around if there are any current academic issues.  
(ex: class conflicts within the major, issues with professors, etc)
2. Look at Degree Navigator, write down the course requirements
3. Formulate a list of things you would like to know about the program (corporate connections with the university, current research projects, opportunities for students to get involved, etc)
4. Email Undergraduate Program Director and Arrange Appointment
5. Fill out Undergraduate Report Sheet
6. email to [vicepresident@sgc.rutgers.edu](mailto:vicepresident@sgc.rutgers.edu) and complete by December 4th



Name: Brandon Grosso

Major: Marine Biology

Date: 12-4-18

Semester: Fall of 2018

Undergraduate Program Director: Gary Taghon

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I. Major Options - What options are offered within the major? How do they differ?

- Directed Marine Studies
- Physical Oceanography
- Marine Chemistry
- Marine Biology
- Marine Geology

Directed Marine Studies in a general major for those interested in a basic concept of marine science while the other 4 majors are more specified and go more into that branch of marine science.

II. Total number of students within the major

There are 81 students.

III. Goals within the major - What are expectations of students post-graduation?

The goals of the major are master the basic biological, chemical, physical, and geological principles of marine science; analyze and interpret contemporary oceanographic datasets; show evidence of scientific literacy, and communicate the information effectively both orally and in writing; develop, conduct, and report on an applied research experience in marine science in collaboration with a scientific mentor, and evaluate contemporary global issues and the ethics of how the ocean's resources are used.

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IV. Major Courses - What is the goal of each course? What should students be learning?

There are only 2 classes that are major courses that are needed for all the marine science majors that do not specifically go into any one of the majors.

Dynamics of Marine Ecosystems – This is the first marine class an undergrad will take where you learn an overview of the ocean and all its different processes and what impacts it.

Oceanographic Methods and Data Analysis – This class is geared towards learning the different sampling methods that an oceanographer can do during research and the data analysis that goes with those sampling methods. The goal of the course is to prepare students to do field work on a boat during any internships, research, and when out in the work field.

V. Concerns/Student issues with classes? How to resolve, suggestions?

- Some of the requirements → why are they needed when students do not need to focus on it, for example, why can Animal Genetics not be taken along with Genetics or Plant Genetics as an option? Suggestions include making some of those classes as options.

- Classes under core should meet more or more varied since a lot of classes meet at the same time so it makes it hard to graduate on time (Dynamics being a requirement, needing to be in Junior year to take, normally, and being a prereq for other classes). Currently that is in the works to change class times to make it more allowable to graduate on time within having to forfeit some of the classes one would want to take with the splits in focus on some of the marine classes.

VI. Things going on within the major (Research, Visitors, Talks, Seminars within the major)

There is a lot going on within the marine science major. All the undergrads are joined into the Departments email list for undergrads specifically and “all” (which involves faculty, staff, undergrads, and grad students). Emails are sent out daily about research opportunities, seminar talks, and visitors with the locations, times, who will be there, and what it is about.

VII. Research Opportunities

There is plenty of research going on in the marine department, with emails being sent or being publicized to classes and within the department. The departments website is also where you can find all the faculty labs to see available positions or their emails to ask if they have anything you can be a part of.

VIII. Job Outlook, suggestions for students in this major (ex: organizations to join, news to pay attention to)

Again, the email list server for the marine department is very good about sending out emails for future graduates for job positions happening and a good amount of the faculty would be more than glad to talk about any organizations or things to focus on if you just ask them about it.

IX. Changes within the major in the upcoming year?

The major was recently changed in the 2017 year. Currently they are working on changing the times some of the classes are occurring at since they did a revamp and split some of the more intensive classes into two where each focus on different aspects. They are testing where to change some of the days and times classes occur within the major.

X. Other Suggestions