

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY**  
**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MINOR, NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR**  
**OR SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO AN EXISTING MINOR**

A minor may be chosen by students to support the major, to offer greater job opportunities to the student on graduation, or to provide recognition of study in a second academic area. Completion of an approved minor will meet the upper-division General Education requirement. A minimum of 12 credit hours, normally at the advanced level (300-400) in a specified field of study is required.

Interdisciplinary minors require 12 credit hours of 300/400-level courses selected from at least two different disciplines with a maximum of six credits from any one discipline. Three credit hours in the interdisciplinary minor may be in the major, if a major course is listed as an option for the interdisciplinary minor. As such, it will be credited toward both the major and the interdisciplinary minor.

Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for the complete policy on minors.

Minimum enrollment expectations for minors are five graduates in five years or the minor will be discontinued.

**Proposed Action (check one)**

☒ New Minor    ☐ New Interdisciplinary Minor    ☐ Significant Changes to an Existing Minor

1. Name of proposed minor or minor to be changed:

Minor in Marine and Ecological Sciences

2. Description of proposed minor or change to an existing minor:

The minor in marine and ecological sciences is offered by the Dept of Biological Sciences to provide students with a foundation in ecological sciences with a focus in marine biology. This minor will supplement many majors with application of those

3. Rationale for proposal:

(address what the proposed minor will accomplish for students)

This minor will provide students with a broad range of knowledge in ecological sciences with an emphasis on marine biology.

4. Majors likely to enroll in the minor (for new minors):

Civil Engineering Technology, Data Science, Geography, Mechanical Engineering

5. Projected enrollment and why (for new minors):

5-10 new students per year

6. Proposed Effective Term:

Fall 2026

7. Resources needed, including human resources, library resources, faculty resources, and funding resources:

These courses are part of the current majors in Biology, so no additional resources will be needed.

8. Program requirements: [List below all courses required for the minor, the prerequisites, and the total hours required for the minor. Submit the appropriate information through the online Course Inventory Management (CIM) process in CourseLeaf (nextcatalog.odu.edu/courseadmin) for all new courses/course changes.]

Prereqs: BIOL 121N, 122N, 123N, 124N, 291

Required courses: BIOL 311 (3 credits), BIOL 331 (3 credits), BIOL 435 (3 credits), BIOL 481W (5 credits)

Total credits: 14 credits

9. Description (showing new copy or revised copy) for the next Undergraduate Catalog.

The minor in marine and ecological sciences is offered by the Dept of Biological Sciences to provide students with a foundation in ecological sciences with a focus in marine biology. This minor will supplement many majors with application of those fields to marine biology, which can lead to jobs in the region and beyond.

10. Schedule for offering courses (include whether the minor can be completed in two years and whether it will be available through Distance Learning) (for new minors):

This minor can be completed within two years. All prereqs are offered every semester. BIOL 311 offered Spring and Summer, BIOL 33 offered Summer and Fall, BIOL 435 offered Spring, BIOL 481W offered Summer. All via DL.

11. Effect on current department course schedule (for new minors):

There will be no changes to the current course schedule.

**APPROVED**

Joshua  
Wallach

Digitally signed by Joshua  
Wallach  
Date: 2026.01.09  
10:29:38 -05'00'

College Dean

Date

Clayton  
Wright

Digitally signed by  
Clayton Wright  
Date: 2026.01.06  
13:08:17 -05'00'

Originator of Request

External Department Chair(s)  
(If applicable)

Date

Holly Gaff

Digitally signed by Holly  
Gaff  
Date: 2026.01.06  
15:17:50 -05'00'

Department Chair

Chair, Faculty Senate  
Committee A

Date

Matthew Perry Nerem: 2026.01.08



Chair, College Committee

Provost

Date

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**ADMINISTRATIVE CODING**

Effective Term \_\_\_\_\_

Major Code \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Code \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

## **New Minor in Marine and Ecological Sciences**

**Total required credits: 14**

### **Prerequisites:**

BIOL 121N General Biology 1 (3 credits)

BIOL 122N General Biology 1 Lab (1 credit)

BIOL 123N General Biology 2 (3 credits)

BIOL 124N General Biology 2 Lab (1 credit)

BIOL 291 Ecology (3 credits)

### **Required courses (14 credits):**

1. **BIOL 311 Global Change Biology** (3 credits)

Prerequisite courses: BIOL 291

2. **BIOL 331 Marine Biology** (3 credits)

Prerequisite courses: BIOL 291

3. **BIOL 435 Marine Conservation Biology** (3 credits)

Prerequisite courses: BIOL 331

4. **BIOL 481W Forensic and Medical Entomology** (5 credits)

Prerequisite courses: BIOL 291