

The University of Washington

**PROGRAM OF STUDIES IN MARINE AFFAIRS  
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING AUTUMN 2010**

*The School of Marine Affairs fosters  
comprehensive, long term and proactive approaches to  
marine policy and ocean and coastal management.*

## **I. Introduction**

The Master of Marine Affairs (M.M.A.) degree is granted by the School of Marine Affairs, an academic and research unit of the College of the Environment. The M.M.A. degree program is a two-year graduate course of studies requiring the completion of 59 quarter credits. The M.M.A. is designed to familiarize students with a diversity of conceptual and methodological approaches and substantive areas in Marine Affairs. The thematic focus of the marine affairs graduate curriculum is *Human Dimensions of Global Change in the Marine Environment* (HDGCME).

The SMA offers two tracks for completing the Master of Marine Affairs degree: thesis and non-thesis. All students must complete the thesis track unless given specific permission by the Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC) for a non-thesis track as outlined below. *Both tracks require completion of 59 credits and the core curriculum.*

### ***Thesis Track***

Students in the thesis track are expected to prepare a high quality master's thesis. Ideally, the thesis should be suitable for submission to a peer reviewed journal or equivalent publication. Ten units of the 59 required credits are devoted to thesis research and presentation.

### ***Non-thesis Track***

The non-thesis track is intended for students who are mid-career or who would gain academically and/or professionally from a course of study other than the intensive research and writing experience required in a thesis. Non-thesis track students take an additional 9 credits of coursework and a one-credit capstone seminar.

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

The required credits are distributed among the following topics:

**A. The Core Curriculum.** Typically 24-30 credits

1. *Introduction to Marine Affairs* (3)
2. *Current Topics in Marine Affairs* (1)
3. *Integrated Assessment Methods* (3)
4. *Decision Making & Action Taking* (3)
5. *Marine Law* (3)
6. *Policy Analysis* (3)
7. *Economics* (3)
8. *Policy Processes* (3)
9. *Marine Science* (3)
10. *Quantitative Skills* (3)
11. *First year advising (thesis)* (2)

**B. Electives** Typically about 20-26 credits for thesis track students, and about 29-35 credits for non- thesis track students, but at least the number required to bring the total credits taken to 59.

**C. Thesis and Thesis Presentation** 10 credits required – for thesis track students

Note: Any extra credits used to fulfill the Core Curriculum will count towards elective credits, reducing the number of elective credits required. *In any case, the total credits to graduate must be at least 59.*

**Details of course requirements are discussed in Section III.**

## II. Progress towards the M.M.A. Degree

### *Advising*

During Orientation for the entering class every autumn quarter, each student is assigned to a faculty member who will serve as the First Year Advisor and who will assist the student in planning his/her program and identifying a thesis topic and committee chair. Any time during the first year, *the First Year Advisor may be replaced by a Thesis Committee Chair or Degree Project Advisor*, who will help the student identify a thesis committee and will direct academic work over the remainder of the student's program of studies.

### *SMA Policy on First Year Advising*

Consistency is necessary concerning faculty approaches to first year student advising. All faculty are expected to meet with first year advisees on a regular basis each quarter to discuss a tentative curriculum for the whole two years and the development of thesis topics for students who will be writing a thesis. Students and their first year advisors (or thesis committee chairs) are expected to meet regularly during winter and spring quarters of their first year. Autumn quarter first-year advising is intended to get students oriented to life at SMA while the primary purpose of winter and spring quarter

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

advising is thesis topic development. *Thesis students* are required to register for one credit of Independent Study (SMA 600B) during each of winter and spring quarters of their first academic year. One independent study credit is consistent with an expectation that students will engage in three hours per week of work in relation to this requirement, including meeting with their faculty advisors an average of one hour/week during each quarter for which they are so registered. *Non-thesis students* are only required to register for independent study credits for advising purposes until they are approved for non-thesis status, but are encouraged to continue to do so as appropriate to the particular expertise they desire to develop at SMA. By the end of spring quarter, first year thesis-track students should have identified their thesis topics and thesis committee chairs.

*If a thesis student has not identified a thesis committee chair by the autumn quarter of the second year, the graduate program coordinator will assign the student to a second year advisor who will assist the student in identifying a thesis advisor by the end of the quarter.*

### ***First Year of Study***

The first year of study is devoted to developing a comprehensive understanding of marine affairs including how the HDGCME construct applies to the field, as well as to strengthening analytical skills, demonstrated by making substantial progress toward the completion of the core course requirements and electives. For most students a major first year task is to identify a thesis chair and develop a thesis topic and thesis prospectus by the end of spring quarter.

### ***Second Year of Study***

During the second year of study, students are expected to develop competence in a particular aspect of marine affairs through additional course work, seminars, and/or the preparation of the required thesis. Non-thesis students perform additional course work in lieu of thesis credits.

### ***Satisfactory Progress***

"Satisfactory progress" refers to a student's ability to meet the academic standards set by the Graduate School and the School of Marine Affairs. In particular, *students are required to maintain a quarterly and cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (B)*. Students falling below this minimum will be notified by the graduate program coordinator, and, if necessary, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss corrective action. *Course grades below 2.7 will not count toward graduation.*

- **Full-time status.** Some graduate funding sources require full-time status, which is typically defined as 10 credits during the academic year and 3 credits during summer quarter.
- **Length of Studies.** M.M.A. requirements normally are completed in six or seven academic quarters. (Summer quarter attendance is optional.) The Graduate School requires completion of the degree within 6 years and 1 quarter from the time the student begins the program.
- **On-Leave Status.** *To maintain graduate student status, all students must register for credits each quarter (except summer), or go on leave.* If on-leave status is desired for one to four quarters, the student **must** file a petition, signed by the graduate program coordinator, with the UW Registrar's Office and pay a \$35 fee. Renewal of on-leave status is subject to the discretion of the School. *If you fail to either sign up for credits, or go on leave, you will have to reapply to the Graduate School for admission.*

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

- **Incomplete Grades.** Students must have completed the required 59 credits at graduation. If any of the required courses have an "Incomplete" grade, a contingency will be placed on granting the degree. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved in writing by the Thesis Committee Chair and the Graduate Program Coordinator.

### ***General SMA Policy on C/NC***

The SMA policy on C/NC is that all core and regular elective courses are graded with the possibility of exceptions to be decided by the graduate program coordinator (GPC) on a case by case basis (e.g., the course is offered only on a C/NC basis). SMA 550 (Special Topics) may be offered as C/NC at the discretion of the instructor. SMA 570 (Thesis Presentation) and SMA 571 (Non-thesis Capstone) are exceptions, as are SMA 600B and SMA 700.

### ***Procedures for Academic Dispute Resolution***

The following options are available to students in the event of academic disputes: 1) Talk to the professor or TA involved; 2) Talk to the appropriate advisor or supervisory committee chair; 3) Consult with the GPC; 4) Talk to the SMA Ombudsman; 5) Talk to the Director. In cases where the student feels it is necessary to go beyond SMA, contact the University Ombudsman.

## **III. Master of Marine Affairs Degree Requirements**

Conferral of the M.M.A. degree depends upon meeting the standards of academic performance established by the University of Washington Graduate School and upon satisfactory completion of the Master of Marine Affairs Degree Requirements. Course descriptions and required prerequisites for the courses listed in Table 1 may be found in the *University of Washington General Catalog* (<http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/marine.html>).

Note: Students are responsible for assuring that the non-SMA courses listed below meet the intent of the SMA requirement. Course instructors and content often change, frequently at the last minute, but course numbers and course titles remain the same. Consult the GPC to determine if a course still meets the goals of the SMA requirement.

### **A. The Core Curriculum**

The core requirements are in three categories:

- (1) The Introductory Sequence – SMA 500, 501, 502 and SMA 550A, (autumn quarter) – that addresses SMA's HDGCME theme;
- (2) Subject areas – e.g., marine science, marine law, economics, and government and politics (policy processes);
- (3) Analytic Skills – e.g., quantitative analysis and policy analysis.

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

### *Waivers for Core Courses*

No substitutions are permitted for required courses in the Introductory Sequence (SMA 500-502).

For the subject areas, each student must satisfy the graduation requirement by taking one or more courses covering the subject while attending SMA. Students with little or no background in a subject area would satisfy the specified requirements with a basic course covering the fundamentals of the subject. Students with a strong academic background (e.g. two 3-credit undergraduate courses in the subject) can fulfill the subject area requirements by taking a more advanced course. For example, a student with no marine science background would take the introductory course SMA 591, while a student with sufficient marine science background would choose from a number of available marine science courses.

Waivers for core requirements are possible only if a student can demonstrate substantial prior coursework in a topic area and that additional coursework would be redundant. In special cases, a student with a strong background in a subject area may seek a waiver of that graduation requirement from the Graduate Program Coordinator. For example, a student having a law degree could seek waiver from the law requirement; a student with a degree in biological oceanography may be able to waive the marine science requirement. We distinguish between waiving requirements for specific courses (e.g. SMA 519, 536, or 591) and waiving the obligation to take courses in a specified category (e.g. Policy Analysis, Economics, Science).

In no case can waivers be used to reduce the total number of credits required for graduation. Requests for waivers are to be submitted to the GPC. These decisions are to be made by the GPC in consultation with the appropriate faculty advisor or Supervisory Committee Chair. Such changes must be recorded in writing by the GPC and placed in the students' files, along with the necessary transcripts.

The skills requirements seek to achieve a minimum level of skill in the subject area. Each student can satisfy the core skill requirements by taking courses at UW or by having taken adequate coursework before coming to SMA. For example, a student with coursework in statistics would be waived from these requirements. While SMA has no specific *qualitative* analysis requirement, students are strongly encouraged to take classes addressing social science data collection and analysis methods. Examples include Interviewing Skills (SMA 512), Administrative Law (SMA 476), Geog 425 (Qualitative Methods in Geography), Anth 550 (Field Techniques in Ethnography), CFR 504 (Research Processes in Forest Resources) and CFR 550 (Seminar in Environmental Sociology – Stanley Asah).

Many other skills are of value to policy practitioners, such as planning, budgeting, mediation and negotiation. SMA students are strongly encouraged to pursue practitioner skills through the electives they take in the Evans School or elsewhere on campus.

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

### **1. Introduction to Marine Affairs (3 credits)**

*This course introduces students to concepts that form the basis of the SMA curriculum, including coupled social-ecological systems, resilience in social-ecological systems, human stressors and drivers of change in marine systems, and environmental and institutional responses to change.*

SMA 500. Marine Affairs. (3 credits) – required for first-year students

### **2. Current Topics and Research Areas in Marine Affairs (1 credit)**

*This course introduces topics and research areas and approaches relevant to thesis development. It is a compliment to SMA 500.*

SMA 550A. (autumn quarter only) Current Topics and Research Areas in Marine Affairs (1 credit) – required for first-year students

### **3. Tools for Integrated Assessment in Marine Affairs (3 credits)**

*This class presents analytic issues and techniques for analyzing marine affairs problems from the coupled system perspectives implied by the HDGCME framework.*

SMA 501. Integrated Marine Affairs Practice (3 credits) – required for first-year students

### **4. Marine Policy Action Taking, Implementation and Evaluation (3 credits)**

*Focuses on decision-making, action taking, implementation, evaluation and adjustment in response to problems that emerge within the HDGCME framework.*

SMA 502. Decision Making and Action Taking (3 credits) – required for first-year students

### **5. Marine Law (3 credits)**

*The law requirement is designed to give students exposure to a body of legal principles developed through treaties, statutes, and/or judicial and administrative decisions affecting a specific marine affairs topic. International Law of the Sea introduces students to the norms, rules, and procedures operative in the world ocean regime. U. S. Ocean and Coastal Law, constrained to a significant extent by the International Law of the Sea, provides the basis for most of the policies that are applied within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and the coastal zone.*

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

- *Note that SMA 476, Introduction to Environmental Law and Process, meets the recommended social science data collection and analysis elective requirement, not the marine law requirement. The marine law courses are:*

[SMA 506/LAW 561. International Law of the Sea \(3 Credits\)](#)

[SMA 515/LAW 565. U.S. Ocean and Coastal Law \(3 Credits\)\\*](#)

*\* For AY 2010/11, this course will be taught as SMA 550 (X)*

*Other law courses that may be relevant to marine affairs include Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law and Indian Law. Permission is required from the GPC to substitute any of these courses for a marine law course.*

### **6. Techniques of Policy Analysis (3 credits)**

*The purpose of this requirement is for students to be exposed to the various theories and tools of policy analysis (cost/benefit, risk analysis, decision analysis, etc) and how those tools are applied by practitioners.*

*The main offering in this category at SMA is:*

[SMA 519. Marine Policy Analysis \(3 Credits\)](#)

*Upon the approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator, students required to take policy analysis may substitute:*

[PBAF 513. Public Policy Analysis \(3 Credits\)](#)

*Students qualifying for a waiver from SMA 536 (as well as students who have taken SMA 536) may substitute an economics class for the policy analysis requirement.*

### **7. Economics Requirement (3 credits)**

*The SMA economics requirement assures that SMA students understand the basics of microeconomics in application to marine policy. The basic economics course for SMA students who have not taken at least two economics courses at an undergraduate level is:*

[SMA 536. Applied Microeconomics for Marine Affairs \(3 credits\)](#)

*Students who are waived by the Graduate Program Coordinator from SMA 536 due to adequate undergraduate training are required to take at least one economics course at the 400- or 500-level or a class in policy analysis. The following courses are available:*

[SMA 537. Economics of Marine Policy \(3 Credits\)](#)

[SMA 538. Economics of Living Marine Resources \(3 Credits\)](#)

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

ECON 435. Natural Resources Economics (5 Credits)

ECON 436. Economics of the Environment (5 Credits)

As noted above, students who are not waived from SMA 536 are required to take the course. They then must also take one of the advanced courses listed above. Students interested in pursuing careers in policy are strongly encouraged to take both policy analysis and economics courses.

### 8. *National and International Policy Processes (3 credits)*

*The Policy Processes requirement provides students with an understanding of the dynamics that drive policy formulation and policy implementation, primarily at the national level. An explicit analytical approach is used to study the how, why, and what of policy processes in some defined national context(s). A focus on environmental/natural resources policy is desirable but not obligatory. Any of the following courses fulfills the requirement:*

SMA 507. International Organization and Ocean Management (3 credits)

SMA 508. National Marine Policy Processes (3 credits)

SMA 521. Government Responses to Global Climate Change (3 credits)

\* PB AF 590 / CFR 592. Environmental Policy Processes (3)

Political Science 575A / PB AF 575. Public Policy Processes (5)

\* PB AF has multiple '590' courses, only the one with this title is approved.

### 9. *Marine Science Requirement (3 credits)*

*The objectives of the science requirement are to familiarize SMA students with the physics, chemistry, and biology of the ocean; with hypothesis-testing approaches as they are used in marine research; and with methods of data collection and analysis for marine research purposes.*

*The basic science course for SMA students who do not have a strong undergraduate background in oceanography or marine science is:*

SMA 591. Marine Science in the Coastal Zone (3 Credits)

*Students who think they may qualify for a waiver from SMA 591 are encouraged to contact Prof. Terrie Klinger directly for consultation. Students who are waived from SMA 591 are required to take at least one 400 or 500-level science course. The following are suggested options:*

SMA 510. Topics in Marine Ecology (3 credits)

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

FISH 450. Salmonid Behavior and Ecology (4 Credits)

BIOL 473. Limnology (3 credits)

### 10. *Quantitative Skills Requirement (3 credits)*

*The required skill level is equivalent to intermediate statistics, including an understanding of point estimates, confidence intervals and regression equations. Students not meeting this requirement through undergraduate classes or experience should take one appropriate course while at SMA. Recommended courses include:*

Q SCI 381. Intro to Probability and Statistics (5 Credits).

STAT 311. Elements of Statistical Method (5 Credits) (Can be taken as a “distance learning course” or as a regular classroom course)

*Although 300-level courses do not qualify for graduation credits, we will waive 3 credits of the 59-credit SMA graduation requirement for students completing one of these courses.*

### 11. *Marine Affairs Advising*

SMA 600 B. Thesis Development Advising (1 each, winter and spring quarters for first-year students)

## **B. Electives** (20 credits minimum, or the number required to bring total credits to 59)

*Elective courses are intended to enhance the student's knowledge of Marine Affairs in areas pertinent to the thesis research project or the degree project and the student's special interests. Electives provide the needed depth of understanding in substantive fields of inquiry and in methods of research and analysis. At least 6 credits from 2 classes must be taken from the SMA curriculum.*

The School of Marine Affairs faculty have identified the following topical areas of interest:

- Marine Environmental Protection and Restoration
- Integrated Coastal Management and Coastal Zone Management
- Ocean Governance and Regime Development
- Living Marine Resources Policy and Management
- Marine Protected Areas and Ecosystem-Based Management
- Marine Recreation and Leisure
- Seaports, Marine Transportation and Waterfront Development
- Global Change and its Human Dimensions
- Public Education, Outreach and Awareness
- International Applications and Outreach

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

By selecting appropriate courses, students may choose to emphasize one or more of these as a focus of study. Elective credits can also include up to 8 credits of Independent Study (SMA 600). Additional advice on elective course offerings can be sought from faculty advisors, thesis committee chairs, and the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Elective credits must qualify as graduate credit (typically 400 or 500-level courses) offered in any UW department or school. Students should consult with their advisors or thesis committee chairs in choosing a set of elective courses.

SMA has no specific *qualitative* analysis requirement, but students are strongly encouraged to take classes addressing social science data collection and analysis methods as aids to their thesis research. Examples include Interviewing Skills (SMA 512), Introduction to Environmental Law (SMA 476) and Field Techniques in Ethnography (Anth 550).

*At least 6 elective credits, and 2 courses must come from the following list of SMA courses:*

- a. SMA 433 Environmental Degradation in the Tropics
- b. SMA 476 Introduction to Environmental Law and Processes
- c. SMA 480 Marine Resources Management
- d. SMA 485 Pacific Recreation and Tourism Issues
- e. SMA 509 Integrated Coastal Management
- f. SMA 510 Topics in Marine Ecology
- g. SMA 512 Interviewing Methods and Environmental Topics
- h. SMA 514 Marine Pollution Management Issues
- i. SMA 521 Governmental Responses to Global Climate Change
- j. SMA 523 International Science and Technology Policy
- k. SMA 525 Management of Marine Protected Areas
- l. SMA 530 Development and the Environment
- m. SMA 540 International Strategic Planning for Marine Resources
- n. SMA 555 Comparative Marine Business in the North Pacific
- o. SMA 581 Fisheries Management: Case Histories
- p. SMA 585 Climate Impacts on the Pacific Northwest
- q. SMA 550 A-X Special Topics (except those that meet core requirements)

*While the same class may not be used to satisfy both elective and core requirements, any SMA class not used to satisfy a core requirement will qualify for elective credit.*

Other 400 or higher level courses offered at the University of Washington will qualify for graduation credit so long as the course is pertinent to the student's area of study. As a general rule, students should be discussing the choice of elective courses with their faculty advisor or the Graduate Program Coordinator.

### **C. Independent Study Courses (SMA 600 A&B)**

*Students may use independent study to explore topics within their area of interest and during preliminary thesis research and preparation of the prospectus. To enroll in SMA 600 students must have faculty approval to register, using the **SMA Independent Study***

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

**Agreement form.** *Receipt of credit is contingent on completion of work or projects agreed to by the instructor. No more than 8 Independent Study credits, with the exception of the 2 pre-thesis advising credits, will count towards graduation.*

- Note that while graduate-level independent study is a flexible category at the University of Washington, expectations and expected products should be clear between faculty supervisors and students before the Independent Study Agreement is signed. Students may receive “I” (incomplete) grades if expectations are not met by the end of quarters during which Independent Study is elected and ultimately loss of the credits if the expected work is not completed. The University’s rule of thumb is that 1 independent study credit equals 3 hours per week of work, though individual faculty may be flexible in their actual requirements.

### **D. The Thesis and Thesis Presentation** (10 credits – for thesis track students)

Conferral of the M.M.A. Degree for students in the thesis track depends upon satisfactory completion of a research project presented in thesis format and prepared under the supervision of a faculty committee. While doing this research the student is required to take at least 10 credits as follows.

#### **SMA 700. Master's Thesis Research (9 Credits, minimum)**

*Prerequisite: A thesis prospectus must be approved by the student's thesis committee chair prior to enrollment in SMA 700.*

*A student conducting preliminary research and/or developing a prospectus may enroll for SMA 600 (Independent Study) under the supervision of an SMA faculty member. SMA 600 counts towards elective credits.*

#### **SMA 570. Thesis Presentation (1 Credit)**

*This course is offered each quarter. Approval from the chair of the student's supervisory committee is necessary before the presentation can be scheduled.*

### **E. Thesis Track**

#### **I. Thesis Process**

The SMA faculty believes the Master's thesis is a major part of the student's educational experience. An acceptable thesis

- demonstrates independent thought and research,
- contributes to understanding or potential resolution of a problem in marine affairs, and
- communicates effectively to a relevant audience.

The traditional academic thesis is a significant, multi-chapter paper communicating the results of research and analysis of a problem. Some theses attempt to explain and/or predict phenomena

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

important to marine affairs (*the scientific thesis*). Others seek to identify policy issues, adopt an approach to policy development or evaluation, and make recommendations (*the policy analysis thesis*). Still others provide a detailed description and explanation of a marine affairs issue, problem, or case study, but do not attempt either to predict or evaluate (*the descriptive thesis*).

Students may choose to produce a non-traditional thesis, such as a publishable paper, a videotaped program or other project that is not predominantly written material. Such a thesis must meet the same standards of academic excellence as the traditional thesis, and it must involve sufficient documentation to satisfy Graduate School requirements <http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/thesis-dissertation/index.shtml>. The student's Thesis Committee Chair must approve in advance a prospectus which articulates the topic and form of a thesis project. After choosing a Thesis Committee Chair and a preliminary thesis topic, a student will continue working with the Chair to further define the thesis topic, identify a thesis committee, and prepare a written research prospectus. Credit for preliminary thesis research and preparation of the prospectus can be earned by enrolling with the Thesis Committee Chair for SMA 600 Independent Study. Credit for thesis research and preparation of the thesis will be earned by enrolling in a minimum of 9 credits of SMA 700 Thesis. *After the Thesis Committee Chair has approved the prospectus, students may register for thesis credits. Registration must be authorized by the Chair, using SMA Thesis Credit Approval Form.*

The student will also work with his/her Thesis Committee Chair to select core and elective courses that contribute to the substance or methods related to the student's thesis project.

A student will present his/her thesis results to the SMA community during the quarter in which he/she intends to graduate. Credit for this required presentation is earned by enrolling in SMA 570 Thesis Presentation.

### 2. *Thesis Supervision*

Supervision of the student's thesis preparation is the primary responsibility of a committee composed of a Chair, and at least one committee member. The Chair and at least one-half of the total membership must be members of the Graduate Faculty. At least one of these committee members must be formally associated with SMA as a regular, affiliate, adjunct, or research faculty. The Chair will assist students in recruiting members to the committee whose expertise will contribute to the design and execution of the thesis research. The student, with assistance of an SMA faculty advisor, is responsible for completing a prospectus for the thesis research and having it approved by their Thesis Committee Chair prior to enrollment in SMA 700 Master's Thesis Research. The committee will continue to meet with the student as needed until completion of the thesis.

## F. Non-Thesis Track

Non-thesis track students prepare a degree project that could take a variety of forms, including a place-based problem solving exercise, a specific policy proposal, or other practical exercise. Students who wish to pursue the non-thesis track must petition the GPC no later than the end of the eighth week of winter quarter of their first year of study. The petition must make a compelling case for the non-thesis

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

track and present an explicit plan for courses, skills development or other educational experience which will lead to a successful degree project.

Non-thesis track students must have an SMA faculty advisor who concurs in the petition for non-thesis study. Non-thesis track students must fulfill all course requirements of the SMA curriculum and must identify ten additional credits of study that substitute for thesis credits and are acceptable to the faculty advisor. A word of explanation is necessary relative to the requirement for 10 additional credits of study in lieu of a thesis. The Graduate School requires that programs for the same degree be very distinct from each other and that there be equity in the requirements of each relative to the other. Equity in the non-thesis requirements vis-à-vis the thesis requirement lies in the additional advanced courses pertinent to each student's professional objectives. These courses amount to nine credits. The final one-credit seminar brings the total to 10 credits.

In applying for admission to the non-thesis track, students must specify: 1) the professional objectives to be served; 2) the additional courses (9 credits) to be taken, and the rationale for proceeding in this fashion, i.e. what value is added. In the one-credit seminar (SMA 571) which is required at the end of the coursework, they are to provide a written record of no more than 10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font) evaluating what added value was derived from it.

The seminar is a one-credit seminar meeting weekly for one hour at a time. Since each student's program will be custom designed, the seminar will provide an opportunity for those who opt for this path to meet as a cohort to discuss in detail issues related to their professional objectives.

Because the number of non-thesis students varies from year to year, we may occasionally have too few to justify holding the SMA 571 course. As a result, we may vary the scheduling of the seminar and may cancel the class when few students sign up for the course. Meetings between the non-thesis students and the designated SMA 571 instructor will be scheduled in the quarter **before** the course is offered to ensure that the course design is custom-tailored to the current mix of students.

This course shall be offered on a C/NC basis. (See general SMA policy on C/NC, page 3.)

## IV Options

### A. Certificate Programs

There are a number of 'Graduate Certificate Programs' on campus that are available to SMA students, including the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management through the Program of the Environment and the GTTL Certificate through the Global Trade, Transportation and Logistics dept.. Graduate Certificate programs generally require 20-22 credits, and can be completed by using the SMA elective credits. There is more information on the Graduate Certificate programs in the SMA student binders.

### B. Foreign Languages

There is no foreign language requirement for the M.M.A. degree. However, due to the nature of the field and its international aspects, those students having a background in one or more foreign languages will be encouraged to employ them by planning programs of study and research that focus on marine

## 2010 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

activities and institutions in an appropriate foreign area. In cases where the special interests of students concern specific areas of the world (e.g., the Far East, South America), competence in a foreign language may be essential. The need for a foreign language will be determined by the student's supervisory committee.

Competency in spoken/written English is essential to successful completion of the Program of Studies.

### **C. Internships**

Practical experience in a marine organization is considered advantageous to each student's professional development. The faculty and career services coordinator will assist students, when possible, to find positions in legislative, governmental, for profit and not-for profit organizations in the U.S. and abroad for full or part-time. Independent study credit hours may be earned during the internship assignment by arranging an SMA 600 independent study project under the supervision of an appropriate faculty member with written approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator. Additional work beyond the internship itself may be required. Internships should be carefully selected to contribute to the student's research, thesis work, and professional career goals.