

**BOARD OF VISITORS ACTION FORM
FOR PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES REQUIRING BOV AND SCHEV APPROVAL**

PROPOSAL TITLE:

Creation of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Marine Science degree program

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

The B.S. in Marine Science degree is proposed as a new program with an anticipated Fall 2025 implementation. Proposals for new programs must be submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for review and approval. Prior to SCHEV submission, Board action is required.

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:

Academic Affairs

BRIEF NARRATIVE:

William & Mary currently offers master's and doctoral degrees in Marine Science. Though W&M does not offer an undergraduate degree program, the university does offer a minor in Marine Science. Enrollments in undergraduate Marine Science courses at W&M have more than doubled since 2018. As no public universities in Virginia offer undergraduate marine science degrees, students wishing to remain in-state and attend a public university have no option to do so. These students must either attend a private university or enroll in an out-of-state university. Marine Science is the most popular major in the Common Academic Market, an inter-state system of institutional enrollment reciprocity. Students in W&M's proposed B.S. in Marine Science degree program will develop core skills and fundamental concepts in scientific inquiry and social behavior, and they will complete a foundation of core courses in marine science. A capstone experience (COLL 400 - broadly defined to include advanced and specialized coursework, research, or internship experience) will enable the student to synthesize the curriculum and develop knowledge, skills, and abilities to be competitive for employment as a technician, researcher, and other jobs within private industry or local, state, or federal government.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:Faculty and Staff

Faculty within the School of Marine Science will need to be hired to sustain the advising and teaching needs of the proposed degree program. A preliminary estimate is that two new faculty lines should be sufficient to meet these teaching and advising needs. One FTE staff will be hired to administer and provide ongoing support for the program. Further staff hiring is not anticipated unless enrollment growth supports further hiring.

Revenue

Based on conservative enrollment projections, the program will generate revenue in excess of new program-associated expenses in its initiation year and beyond. Round-trip transportation (e.g., van shuttle-service, multiple times per day) between the main campus and the School of Marine Science will be needed for the duration of the program.

DUPLICATION INFORMATION:

No public institutions of higher education in Virginia offer an undergraduate degree program in marine science. Old Dominion University offers a B.S. in Ocean and Earth Science. Despite its name, the program is approved by SCHEV under a CIP code specific to Geological and Earth Sciences and is not under the same general CIP code category as W&M's proposed program.

LABOR MARKET PROJECTIONS*Labor Market Information: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022 -2032 (10-Yr)*

Occupation	Base Year Employment	Projected Employment	Total % Change and #s	Typical Entry Level Education
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	19,100	19,700	3% (600)	Bachelor's Degree
Biological Scientists, Other	60,400	63,700	4% (2,300)	Bachelor's Degree
Biological Technicians	81,400	85,300	5% (3,900)	Bachelor's Degree
Environmental Scientists	80,500	85,400	6% (4,900)	Bachelor's Degree
Geoscientists (Except Hydrology and Geography)	26,300	27,600	5% (1,300)	Bachelor's Degree

Labor Market Information: Virginia Employment Commission, 2020-2030 (10-Yr)

Occupation	Base Year Employment	Projected Employment	Total % Change and #s	Annual Change #	Education
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	359	365	2% (6)	1	Bachelor's Degree
Biological Scientists, Other	795	813	2% (18)	2	Bachelor's Degree
Biological Technicians	1,621	1,708	5% (87)	9	Bachelor's Degree
Environmental Scientists	3,484	3,687	6% (203)	20	Bachelor's Degree
Geoscientists (Except Hydrology and Geography)	334	349	4.5% (15)	2	Bachelor's Degree

WILLIAM & MARY
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A NEW BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN MARINE SCIENCE
DEGREE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, William & Mary's School of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science has historically been a global leader in impactful marine and coastal systems research and education,

WHEREAS, William & Mary currently offers master's and doctoral degrees in Marine Science but does not offer an undergraduate degree,

WHEREAS, William & Mary expanded into the realm of undergraduate studies with the creation of a Minor in Marine Science in 2010;

WHEREAS, enrollments in undergraduate courses in Marine Science at William & Mary have more than doubled since 2018,

WHEREAS, no public universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia offer a bachelor's degree in Marine Science,

WHEREAS, Virginia residents desiring to pursue an undergraduate degree in Marine Science at public universities in the Commonwealth currently have no choice but to obtain their degree at a private or an out-of-state institution,

WHEREAS, recent studies and trends in higher education indicate a demand for institutions to offer undergraduate programs in Marine Science,

WHEREAS, William & Mary's School of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science is uniquely positioned to offer a high quality and prestigious undergraduate degree program in Marine Science,

WHEREAS, the proposed Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Marine Science aligns with the most recent Six-Year Plan and ties directly with the Water initiative of Vision 2026, which states "William & Mary will lead in finding innovative solutions to ensure the resilience of the world's oceans, coasts and waterways,"

WHEREAS, the proposed B.S. in Marine Science will utilize the core competencies of the faculty of the School of Marine Science, who have the expertise to teach and shepherd this program successfully, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the President and the Provost, the Board of Visitors approves the creation of a B.S. in Marine Science degree program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School of Marine Science will create this new program in compliance with all requirements of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).