

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: PATH TO THE COASTAL AND OCEAN STUDIES (CAOS) CONCENTRATION *formerly Maritime Studies (MAST)*

The **COASTAL AND OCEAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION** involves integrated interdisciplinary study of the world's oceans, the coastal zones where land and sea collide, and the intersections with society and people's livelihoods.

There are many reasons to choose Coastal and Ocean Studies: the oceans control Earth's climate, provide much of our food, host a wide range of mineral resources, and carry most of the world's international trade. Sea-level rise threatens communities along coastlines everywhere. And embedded in all these topics are questions of environmental justice and equitability.

Increasingly, *ocean literacy is central to an informed understanding of how the world works*: scientifically, historically, artistically, and in terms of policy.

WILLIAMS-MYSTIC IS AT THE CORE

Concentrators take four core courses in the [Williams-Mystic Coastal and Ocean Studies Program](#) at our coastal campus in Mystic, CT, and three classes here in Williamstown.

You can plan to attend Williams-Mystic in either sophomore or junior year.

THINKING ABOUT GOING ABROAD?

CAOS concentrators may take other study away programs in the junior year (in consultation with the Study Away office on campus).

MORE DETAILS?

You will find information on the Center for Environmental Studies website, at ces.williams.edu/academic-program/maritime-studies-concentration/. Course offerings are described in the online catalog, at catalog.williams.edu/MAST. The Williams-Mystic Program and its courses are at mystic.williams.edu/. Contact CAOS chair Prof. Rónadh Cox with any questions: rcox@williams.edu

*Oceanography
MAST / GEOS / ENVI 104 OR

*Oceans & Society
MAST / GEOS 110 / ENVI 109

Oceans-themed elective course(s) in any Division (see list in the [online catalogue](#))

FOUR COURSES at WILLIAMS-MYSTIC:

Literature of the Sea
MAST / ENGL 231

American Maritime History
MAST / HIST 352

*Oceanographic Processes
MAST 211 / GEOS 210 OR

Marine Ecology
MAST 311 / BIOL 231

Marine Policy
MAST 351 / PSCI 319

ONE 400-LEVEL SENIOR SEMINAR:

Solutions to the Biodiversity Crisis ENVI 465 OR
Life at Extremes BIOL 414

Other options may be possible: consult with CAOS chair

STRUCTURE OF THE CONCENTRATION

Coastal and Ocean Studies (still listed in as Maritime Studies MAST in the 2023-2024 catalog) comprises seven courses, spanning all three divisions.

- An introductory oceanography course, which can be either of the two 100-level courses offered on campus (green box above), OR the 200-level Oceanographic Processes course at Williams-Mystic.
- Four courses at Williams-Mystic (purple boxes above).
- *One or two electives from any division on campus.
- One 400-level senior seminar from an approved list.

**Students who take Oceanographic Processes at Williams-Mystic will take an extra elective instead of a 100-level on-campus oceanography course.*

