

UC San Diego



# Marine Biology and Marine Chemical Biology

Graduate Program Pre-Admission Information Session

November 15, 2023





# Scripps Institution of Oceanography Graduate Program

Education Organization: 1 Department, 3 Programs, 8 Curricular Groups

Department	Program	Curricular Group
Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Ocean Biosciences (OBP)	Marine Biology (MB) *
		Biological Oceanography (BO)
	Geosciences of the Earth, Oceans, & Planets (GEO)	Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry (MCG)
		Geoscience (GS)
		Geophysics (GP)
	Climate-Ocean-Atmosphere (COAP)	Climate Science (CS)
		Physical Oceanography (PO)
		Applied Ocean Science (AOS)



**350**

Graduate students

**800**

Undergraduates enrolled in Scripps majors

**4,700**

Undergraduate students enrolled in Scripps courses

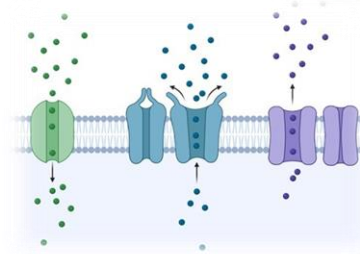
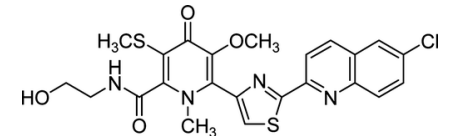
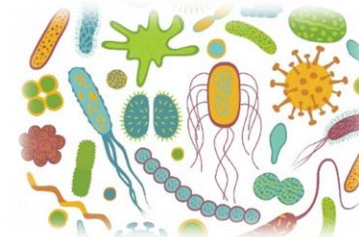
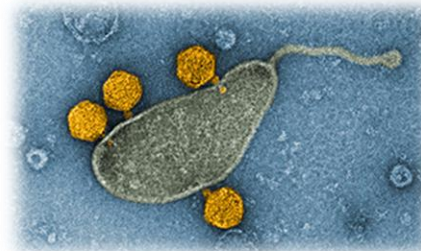
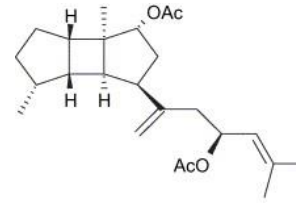
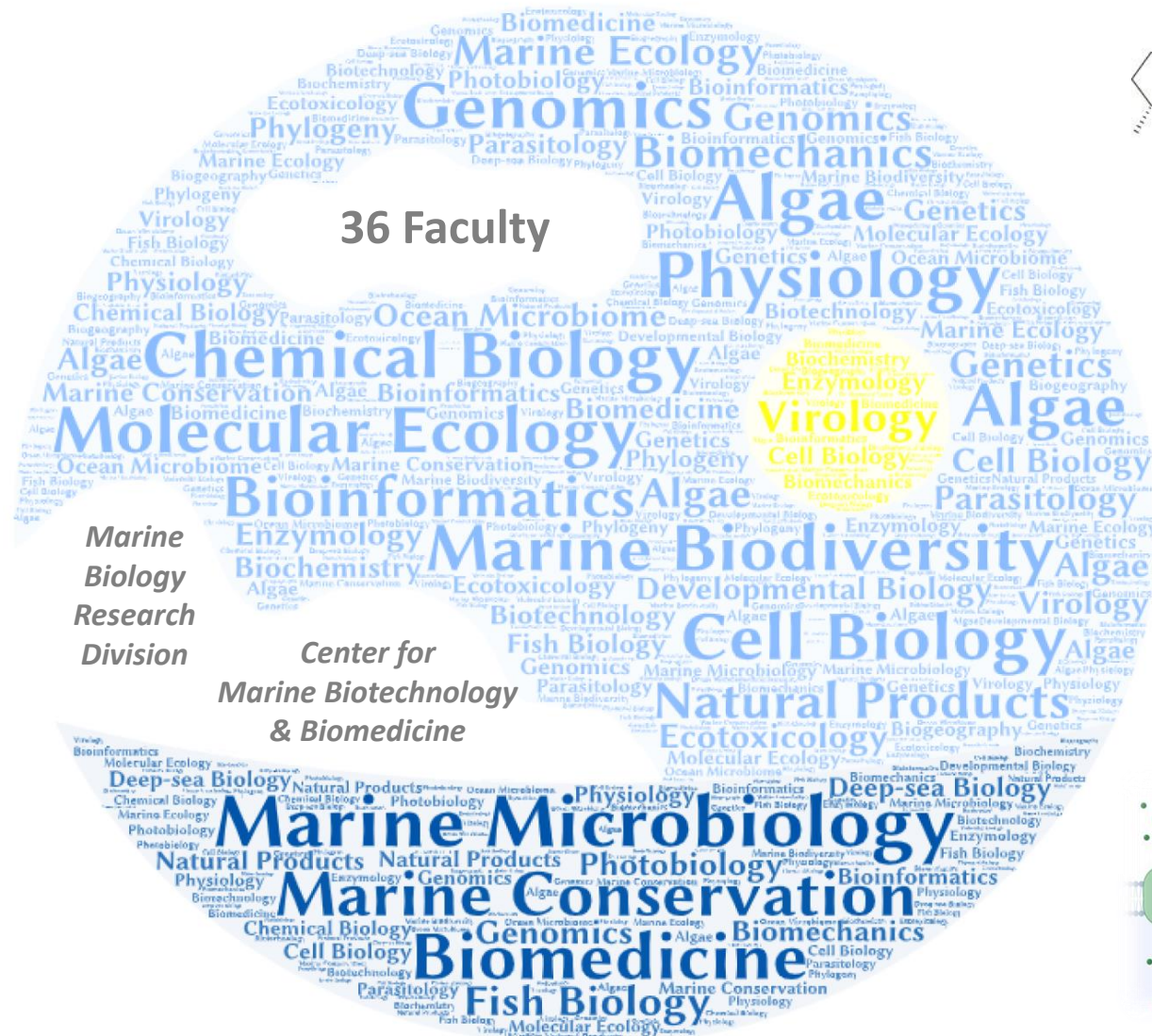
**\* Marine Biology includes two “tracks”: Marine Biology & Marine Chemical Biology and has the largest number of SIO PhD and MS students**

*MB students often work closely with other SIO labs as well as collaborators in the Schools of Biological Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Salk Institute, and the J. Craig Venter Institute.*

# Research Opportunities in Marine Biology

Diverse Disciplines

Diverse Habitats, Diverse Organisms





# Applying to the MB Program

Application deadline: [December 6, 2023](#)

- A major in Biology, Ecology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, or similar
- The GRE is not required for Fall 2024 admission
- Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic background, professional abilities, and potential to succeed
- Two-page Statement of Purpose – IMPORTANT!  
*experience, motivation, research questions, faculty interests, why Scripps?*
- Unofficial academic transcript(s)

## Evaluation Criteria

- ***Potential relative to opportunities (“distance traveled”)***
- ***Academic Preparation***
- ***Scholarly Potential***
- ***Contributions to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion***
- ***Alignment with Program***
- ***Realistic Self-Appraisal***
- ***Long-term Goals***



# Admissions Process

Application deadline: [December 6, 2023](#)

- The Marine Biology Graduate Program operates on a “**Direct Admit**” process
- The Admissions Committee evaluates ALL applications and guides the faculty to consider strong files
- Faculty select students they want to admit
- This is different than a “Cluster Admission” process where a group of students are admitted based on evaluation criteria...

## IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU REACH OUT TO PROSPECTIVE FACULTY TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

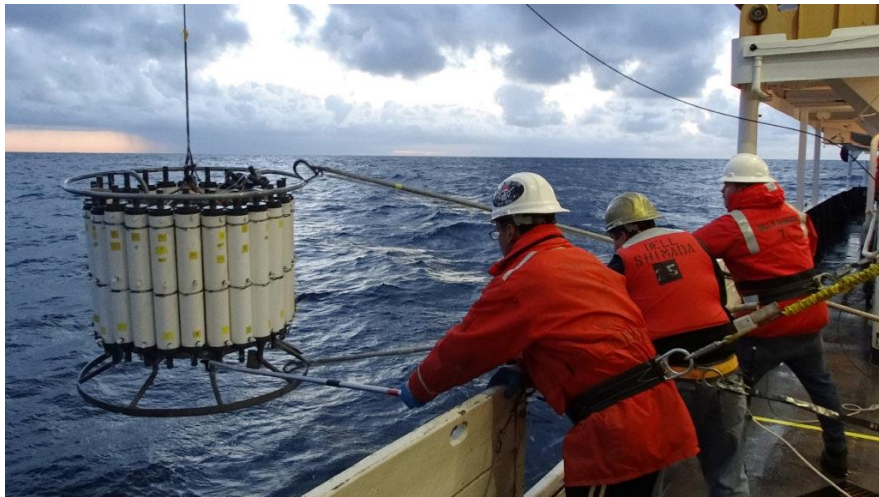
- ✓ *Ask faculty if they are taking students next year (despite great applicants, lack of funding often prevents accepting students...)*
- ✓ *Mention your specific interests and experience*
- ✓ *Read the lab’s papers and mention what draws you to that lab*
- ✓ *Ask if you can set up a one-on-one meeting via Zoom, or in-person for local applicants*



# What to expect after applying...

Application deadline: [December 6, 2023](#)

- After deadline, applications are reviewed by curricular group faculty (December)
- Select candidates invited for Zoom interviews (early/mid-January)
- Admission offers start to be sent (late January/early February)
- SIO Open House (travel to SIO; PhD student only) (mid-February)
- Some applicants will be put on “hold list” (*not accepted, not denied*)
- Student decision deadline: **April 15, 2024**



# Our Philosophy

## Research + Training + Coursework

- Structured first year curriculum to provide foundational knowledge in the physics, chemistry, and biology of the oceans
- Access to diverse graduate courses in specific areas of marine biology and experimental methods
- Guidance and experience in communicating your science
- Take advantage of field and/or sea-going opportunities
- Collaborate with other SIO labs and the broader UC San Diego research community!



# MB Program Overview and Milestones

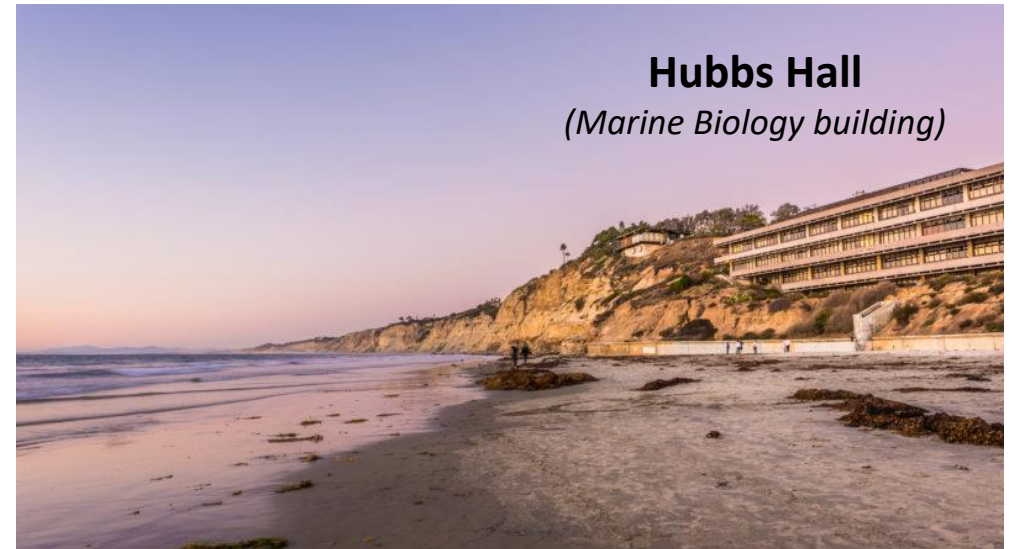
3 member guidance committee, including advisor, appointed at time of admission

## MS PROGRAM

- 1<sup>st</sup> year – Core courses & thesis research
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Thesis research & MS Defense

## PhD PROGRAM

- 1<sup>st</sup> year – Core courses & research “departmental exam”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Presentation at “Marine Biology Spring Research Symposium”, Ethics course
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year – Advancement to candidacy (“qualify”)
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> year – PhD Defense





Thank you for joining us!

Questions?

