Ph.D. in Marine Biology, Minor in Faith-Based Ocean Conservation

HBI University

Course Duration: 3 years

Credit Hours: 105 (including minor)

Program Description

The Ph.D. in Marine Biology at HBIU University provides students with advanced knowledge and research skills in marine ecosystems, oceanic biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and marine conservation. This program equips students to conduct cutting-edge research on marine life, the effects of climate change on oceans, and the restoration of marine habitats. Topics explored include marine ecology, conservation biology, oceanographic research, the impact of human activity on marine environments, and the role of marine species in global ecosystems. Graduates will be well-prepared to lead research initiatives, work with environmental organizations, and contribute to policy development aimed at preserving the health of the oceans and their biodiversity.

The Minor in Faith-Based Ocean Conservation specializes in integrating theological and ethical perspectives with marine conservation efforts. This minor explores how religious teachings and faith-based traditions emphasize ecological responsibility, sustainable fishing practices, and the protection of ocean ecosystems. Students will study how faith communities play a role in advocating for ocean conservation, ethical treatment of marine life, and environmental stewardship. Topics include Christian perspectives on creation care, sustainable environmental practices, and faith-based approaches to protecting the oceans and their inhabitants. This specialization prepares students to contribute to marine conservation initiatives within faith-based organizations, community outreach, and advocacy for environmental justice.

Admissions Requirements

- Master's degree in a relevant field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- GRE scores (if applicable)
- Statement of Purpose (1,000-1,500 words) outlining research interests
- Three letters of recommendation

• Academic writing sample
• Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume
• Interview with faculty (if required)

General Education Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
MBIO 701	Principles of Marine Ecology	3
MBIO 702	Marine Biodiversity and Conservation	3
MBIO 703	Oceanography and Climate Change	3
MBIO 704	Marine Animal Physiology	3
MBIO 705	Coral Reef Ecology and Restoration	3
MBIO 706	Aquatic Microbiology	3
MBIO 707	Fisheries Science and Sustainable Management	3
MBIO 708	Marine Pollution and Toxicology	3
MBIO 709	Coastal Habitat Management	3
MBIO 710	Research Methods in Marine Science	3

Core Foundational Courses (23 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
MBIO 801	Marine Biogeochemistry	3
MBIO 802	Oceanic Food Webs and Ecosystem Dynamics	3
MBIO 803	Deep-Sea Biology	3
MBIO 804	Marine Genomics and Biotechnology	3
MBIO 805	Marine Protected Areas and Policy	3
MBIO 806	Sustainable Aquaculture Practices	3
MBIO 807	Climate Change Adaptation in Marine Ecosystems	3
MBIO 808	Marine Conservation Law and Policy	3
MBIO 809	Ocean Sustainability and Renewable Energy	3
MBIO 810	Ethical Considerations in Marine Research	3

MBIO 811	Faith-Based Environmental Advocacy	3
MBIO 812	Community Engagement in Marine Conservation	3
MBIO 813	Marine Science and Public Policy	3
MBIO 814	The Role of Faith in Ecological Stewardship	3
MBIO 815	Human Impact on Marine Ecosystems	3

Minor in Faith-Based Ocean Conservation (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FBOC 901	Ethical Marine Conservation Strategies	3
FBOC 902	Sustainable Practices for Ocean Stewardship	3
FBOC 903	Faith-Based Environmental Ethics	3
FBOC 904	Religious Communities and Marine Protection	3
FBOC 905	Marine Conservation and Social Justice	3

Dissertation Research & Defense (15 Credit Hours)

Students must complete a doctoral dissertation related to Marine Biology and Faith-Based Ocean Conservation. This includes:

- Develop a research proposal focusing on marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable ocean practices, or faith-driven ecological ethics.
- Conducting original research contributing to marine science and conservation policy.
- Writing a dissertation aligned with environmental advocacy and marine protection efforts.
- Successfully defending the dissertation before a faculty committee.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

- Gain expertise in marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries management, and ecological research.
- Integrate faith-based environmental stewardship into marine science and sustainability efforts.
- Apply scientific research and policy analysis to protect marine ecosystems.
- Conduct original studies on the intersection of faith and ocean conservation.
- Promote sustainable marine resource management through education and advocacy.

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Marine Biologist	$70,000 - $130,000
Ocean Conservation Specialist	$75,000 - $140,000
Marine Policy Advisor	$80,000 - $145,000
Sustainable Fisheries Consultant	$85,000 - $150,000
Environmental Educator in Faith-Based Organizations	$60,000 - $110,000