Hands-on research experiences to prepare you for the future

This major combines an interdisciplinary focus in conjunction with the College of Letters and Science. It offers breadth across many fields as well as the selection of a specific focus area.

You’ll learn the foundational disciplines within marine science, including biology, chemistry, geology and physics. You’ll explore modern issues facing marine and coastal environments such as climate change, pollution and conservation. This major requires field experience (the Bodega Marine Laboratory is a natural choice for many students), independent research or an internship, and concludes with a capstone research course.
The Marine and Coastal Sciences undergraduate major prepares you for many careers in the life sciences, especially:

**Conservation and Restoration Biology** – Address the impacts of climate change, develop plans for habitat conservation and wildlife protection, and explore other issues critical to maintaining healthy coasts and oceans.

**Aquacultural Sciences** – Develop sustainable solutions for commercial industry to meet growing consumer demands for shellfish and finfish.

**Science Education** – Educate students and the public on the history, diversity and conservation efforts of life on Earth’s oceans and coasts.

**Foundational Research in Biology** – Use the latest methods and technology to expand the frontiers of knowledge by studying marine and coastal sciences.

“Being able to design our own experiments and come up with our own hypotheses taught me valuable skills that you cannot learn in a standard classroom setting. The fieldwork is extremely hands-on. I had the best time during my six weeks, and I learned so many skills and facts that I will use and cherish forever.”

– Kiley Searle, ’17 (expected)

Preparing a new generation of leaders for the future

Undergraduate Kiley Searle displays a Hopkins Rose nudibranch, which she studied as part of her field research experience at the Bodega Marine Laboratory.