Applying to the UHM Oceanography Department

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UHM Oceanography Department
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Step 1 - Consider a degree in OCN

- **3 Divisions**
  - Biological Oceanography
  - Physical Oceanography
  - Marine Geology & Geochemistry

- **Masters Program**
  - 2 - 3 years
  - Masters Thesis

- **PhD Program**
  - 5 - 6 years
  - Doctoral Dissertation
Step 1 - Consider a degree in OCN (cont.)

● **Common Core Coursework**
  ○ OCN 620 - Physical Oceanography
  ○ OCN 622 - Geological Oceanography
  ○ OCN 623 - Chemical Oceanography
  ○ OCN 621 - Biological Oceanography
  "OR"
  ○ OCN 626 Marine Microplankton Ecology
  ○ OCN 627 Ecology of Pelagic Marine Animals
  ○ OCN 628 Benthic Biological Oceanography

● **Subdivision specific coursework**
  ○ MS and PhD students take same course load

● **Competence in Computer Programming**

● **30 days of field work / ship time**

https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography/graduate-program/grad-school-admission/
Step 2 - Contact a Faculty Member

● Faculty sponsorship
  ○ Aligned research interests
  ○ Taking on a new student

● Funding
  ○ TAship
  ○ RAship
  ○ Outside Fellowship
    ■ NSF GRFP
    ■ Nancy Foster
    ■ Fulbright
    ■ Hawaii Sea Grant
  ○ Internal Fellowship
    ■ Uehiro Fellowship
    ■ Hau'oli Mau Loa Fellowship

https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography/ocn-people/ocn-faculty/
Step 3 - Explore the OCN Website Admissions Page

- **Graduate Student Handbook**
  - MS or PhD

- **Common Undergrad Majors**
  - Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Math, Microbiology, Zoology, etc.

- **Undergrad Pre-Reqs**
  - 1 year Calculus (ideally through differential equations and vector calculus; a proficiency exam determines placement)
  - 1 year Physics
  - 1 year Chemistry

- **GRE (not required), TOEFL (required for international if college/university is not English speaking)**

https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography/graduate-program/grad-school-admission/
Step 4 - UHM Graduate Division Admissions Application

- **UH Graduate Division Application**
  - General application to UH
  - Contact Info
  - Previous Degrees
  - Department Applying for (Oceanography)

- **Application Fee ($100)**

- **Transcripts (official or unofficial)**

- **International Students**
  - TOEFL
  - Residency Declaration
  - Proof of Sufficient Funding
  - Standardized Test Scores

https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/documentation-requirements/
Step 5 - UHM OCN Department Application

- **Graduate Program Supplemental Information Form**
  - Which division - PO, BO, MGG?
  - MS or PhD?
  - Contact Info
  - Undergrad degree(s)
  - Fellowships, awards, honors
  - OCN faculty you communicated with about joining their lab as a grad student!
  - Courses in progress (for college seniors and current MS students)

- **Statement of Objectives Form**
  - Think like a Cover Letter
  - Research Interests
  - Career Goals
  - Why do you want to work with this faculty member?
Step 5 - UHM OCN Department Application (cont.)

- **Graduate Assistantship Application Form**
  - How will you be funded? GA, TA, Fellowship?
  - TAship priority for current graduate students

- **Letter of Recommendation Form**
  - 3 letters from faculty or advisors
  - Student fills out top of this form
  - Letter writer fills out the rest
  - Letter Writer must submit the form and letter directly to Kristin at kristinu@hawaii.edu
    - The student applicant should not submit this themselves

- **Transcripts**
  - Unofficial or Official
Step 6 - Submission

- Deadline for Fall 2023 - December 15th

- Kristin Momohara (OCN Staff - kristinu@hawaii.edu)
  - Ask her any questions you have!
  - She will also ask you questions if additional info is needed!
Step 7 - Admission

- Admission decisions released 2 - 3 months after the application deadline
  - February - April

- Keep in contact with the faculty member you’d like to work with!
  - Receiving a fellowship might reverse an admission decision
  - Faculty receiving a grant might reverse an admission decision
Questions?

- Feel free to contact us with any questions (Kristin first!)
- Kristin Momohara (kristinu@hawaii.edu)
- Blake Stoner-Osborne (blakeso@hawaii.edu)
- Alexus Cazares (acazares@hawaii.edu)
- Craig Nelson (cen@hawaii.edu)