

**MARINE BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY (MBE) GRADUATE HANDBOOK 2015-2016**  
**LATEST REVISION 7-31-15**

**NOTE: MBF500-level courses prior to Fall 2015 are now MBE600-level courses;  
MBF600-level prior to Fall 2015 now MBE700-level courses;  
MBF700-level prior to Fall 2015 now MBE800-level courses  
The new numbering is used in this guide**

**A Concise PhD/MS Guide**

**SUMMARY**

1. This handbook outlines the specific procedures and requirements for PhD and MS students in the Marine Biology and Ecology (MBE) Program at RSMAS. It serves as a supplement to the linked [RSMAS](#) and [UM](#) Graduate Handbooks.
2. In the first year, a PhD or MS student takes required course work, passes the comprehensive exam, forms a dissertation/thesis committee, and has the first committee meeting. MS students move quickly to execute preliminary research in support of the thesis.
3. In the second year a student and the committee agree on a dissertation/thesis proposal topic, and the student writes and defends the proposal. MS students move quickly to execute research, write the thesis, defend it, and graduate. The PhD student passes qualifying exams. A successful qualifying exam admits the PhD student to candidacy.
4. In the third year and every year thereafter, a PhD student holds a committee meeting and provides an annual progress report to the committee. Committee chair and student should collaborate on a concise description of this meeting for their files, and the chair makes an annual summary to the faculty of the student's satisfactory progress.
5. To graduate with a PhD requires PhD candidacy and the candidate must apply to graduate one semester prior to defending. The complete written dissertation must be made available to the dissertation committee four weeks prior to the oral defense. The announcement of defense, indicating that the committee tentatively approves of the dissertation, must occur 2 weeks prior to the defense. The student must provide an oral presentation and defend the dissertation in public.
6. Documentation for committees and committee meetings must be provided to the GSO, and description of annual progress must be provided to the MBE AC.
7. It is expected that a student will defend the PhD five years after entering the MBE graduate student program (four years if they hold a Master's degree).

**PREFACE**

Graduate student education includes a close relationship between the advisor and student. The advisor is responsible for advising and supporting a student's research. The graduate student is responsible for his/her education and becoming an independent scientist. The student's dissertation committee plays an important role in the maturation and education of a graduate student. This committee is responsible for insuring the quality of research, evaluating student progress for candidacy, and approving the dissertation. This MBE Student Handbook is designed to aid students and faculty by stating the Program's interpretations of RSMAS policy, and by stating specific Program requirements. It is ultimately the responsibility of each student and their advisor to meet all of the guidelines and requirements of the Program described in this document and the School stated in the RSMAS Graduate Handbook.

**PhD TIME LINE**

**Year 1:** All required courses taken. Comprehensive exam passed at the end of spring semester. Student dissertation advisory committee formed, first committee meeting held.

**Year 2:** Proposal written and defended, and qualifying exams passed.

**Years 2-5:** Annual meetings with the dissertation committee and submission of concise annual progress reports.

## **Doctorate in Marine Biology and Ecology Degree (PhD)**

### **The First Year**

#### **THE STUDENT'S DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

A student's dissertation committee is important to the student and to our academic institution because members of the committee both provide guidance and are the guardians of a program of excellence. A committee should be formed in the student's first year and a first committee meeting must be held. Students should discuss with their advisors possible committee members. The committee must meet once per year to review the student's progress. A short summary of the meeting is sent to the RSMAS Graduate Studies Office (GSO) by the committee chair for addition to the student's file.

#### *Importance of Faculty Participation:*

Faculty active participation in a student's dissertation committee is very important for a successful and excellent graduate program. The members of a dissertation committee are responsible for overseeing the student's research, approving the proposal, and evaluating the student for candidacy (passing qualifying exam). The committee is responsible for the student's development into an independent scientist and approving the student dissertation.

#### *DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:*

The dissertation committee will consist of no fewer than five members: the chair, who will be a member of the University Graduate Faculty, three members also from the Graduate Faculty, and one member from outside RSMAS (this can be a faculty member at UM or outside of the University).

#### *REQUIREMENTS*

The committee **must** meet at least once per year. The MBE AC requests copies of the approved appointment to Student's Committee form, changes in the membership of the committee, and the annual progress report.

#### **COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The faculty advisor and student should consider carefully how many credits to transfer when the student enrolls in the MBE program with an MS degree from another school (see the RSMAS Handbook).

All students must maintain a GPA >3.0 at all times. This is a requirement of the Graduate School (GS) and is checked each semester by GSO. A student whose GPA falls below 3.0 is automatically placed on RSMAS academic probation. If the GPA is not increased to 3.0 in the subsequent semester, the student may be dismissed from the program.

#### *REQUIRED COURSES*

Students are required to take 3 of the following courses as MBE requirements: MBE704 Biological Oceanography, MBE608 Biometrics, MBE615 Tropical Marine Ecology, MBE710 Physical Environment of Marine Organisms (all of these are 3 cr each).

MBE702 Graduate Student Seminar is a 1 cr course for which registration is not required, however, throughout their tenure in the Program, every MBE graduate student is expected to attend all seminars every year they are an MBE student, and must give a talk in the series annually after the first year. Students arriving with an MS degree begin to give seminars in their first year.

**All RSMAS students are required to take the Research Ethics Course (RSM700; 0 cr)**

All students anticipating serving as teaching assistants must take Educational Training (RSM771). This course that counts toward the 24-cr minimum course credits.

The goal of the first year is to complete the required courses, the comprehensive exam, and address foundation knowledge areas for dissertation via elective coursework and scholarly study of primary literature.

#### **FALL:**

MBE704 Biological Oceanography

MBE608 Biometrics

MBE615 Tropical Marine Ecology

MBE702 Student Seminars

Alternating year electives or other courses

#### **SPRING:**

MBE710 Physical Environment of Marine Organisms.

MBE702 Student Seminars

MBE other courses or research

In every subsequent fall and spring semester, students should be full-time enrolled via a combination of necessary course work and research activities. Full time status is achieved by either total 9 course cr, or 1 cr research (MBE810 or 830).

*WAIVER OF THE REQUIRED COURSES:*

Any student who has successfully completed one or more equivalent courses at an accredited institution may petition the MBE AC to waive the requirement for *enrolling in* the relevant required course, so that the student may claim the course as a requirement met. This is accomplished by interview with the RSMAS course instructor, after which the instructor will send a recommendation memorandum to the MBE AC. Receiving course credits will be at discretion of the AC; for example, an undergraduate course in Biol Ocy can meet the requirement of the student having taken MBE704, but no course credit will be awarded toward the PhD degree; an elective may be taken in its place. If it is intended to use the course completed elsewhere as a core course for the MBE PhD program, the comprehensive exam for that course must be executed.

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

This written test at the end of the first year is designed to evaluate knowledge in the required subjects.

*MBE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM FORMAT for MS and PhD Students*

The exam consists of 1 question from each of the 3 required classes. The comprehensive questions will each be administered immediately following the final test or other graded classroom component of the course, with one hour allotted for each question. RSM700 (Research Ethics) is required of all UM students, but does not include a comprehensive question.

Each comprehensive question will be written and graded by that class professor.

*PROCEDURES FOR PASSING or FAILING THE MBE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM*

Passing the exam requires 100% pass (P/F) on the comprehensive questions.

A single retake is possible at the discretion of the student's committee and the program faculty.

A failed Comprehensive Exam with no endorsement to retake the exam will result in immediate dismissal from the MBE graduate program.

A failed retake of the Comprehensive Exam will also result in immediate dismissal from the MBE graduate program.

**The Second Year**

**DISSERTATION PROPOSAL**

*The dissertation proposal is the foundation for qualifying exams and both must be completed by the end of the second year.*

The first step in designing a research project is to formulate clearly stated hypotheses. Students are advised to "be specific and informative and avoid redundancies." The following components are suggested.

**SUMMARY** (1 page or less) describing the specific aims and the importance of the research,

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (12-15 pages for components 1-5) consisting of:

1. Specific Aims. Provide a list of aims that state concisely and realistically what the research described in the proposal is intended to accomplish and/or what hypothesis is to be tested. Do not exceed one page.
2. Background and Significance. Briefly sketch the background to the hypothesis, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify how the research will advance the field. State concisely the importance of the research by relating the specific aims to longer-term objectives.
3. Progress Report/Preliminary Studies. This section provides an account of the investigator's preliminary studies pertinent to the research.
4. Experimental Design and Methods. Should discuss in detail the experimental design and how these experiments address the specific aims. Should provide detailed procedures for those approaches or techniques that are novel or not well established.

5. Provide a tentative sequence and timetable for the investigation. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and briefly list alternative approaches to achieve the aims.

6. Literature Cited. List all publications cited in the proposal in a standardized format.

*Recommendation in the event of numerous revisions:*

Numerous edits to the proposal by the committee should be avoided. The chair of the committee is primarily responsible for providing a sound document to the student's dissertation committee. The committee is responsible for approving the proposal and experimental approach. If there are many questions concerning experimental design, a committee meeting should be held to discuss these problems.

### **PROPOSAL DEFENSE**

The proposal defense provides the student and the dissertation committee the opportunity to more fully discuss the objectives and methods of the proposed research, after the committee has had time to read and review it. The student provides a presentation on the proposed work and the hypothesis, methods, and breadth of the research are discussed, including alternate approaches. Finally, since the qualifying examination is based on subjects necessary to execute the proposed research, this meeting is an excellent time to define the reading and types of information the student should prepare for it.

### **QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**

At the end of the second year a *written* qualifying examination is required of all PhD students that focuses on the subject matter needed to complete the research proposed for the dissertation. The purpose of the qualifying examination is to demonstrate that the MBE doctoral student has the necessary understanding and expertise in research and related fields to complete the dissertation research. The topic areas should be agreed upon by the student, chair, and the dissertation committee soon after the proposal defense. The student is strongly encouraged to discuss the specific topics with each member of the dissertation committee, well in advance of the examination, to clarify the expected questions. The committee is encouraged to provide specific reading or areas of knowledge they will test the student on. The qualifying exam is 4-5 partial days (4 hours per day) on questions written by their committee. It is the advisor's responsibility to provide the test and to have the student's committee grade it in a timely manner. The scheduling of the exam sessions is the responsibility of the student's advisor, but in all cases the written portion of the examination shall be completed within one week. In the event of a failure, a student may be re-examined once upon the recommendation of the student's committee in consultation with the AC. If permitted, the reexamination must be given before the end of the following semester. An additional oral qualifying examination may be required by the student's committee, but may not serve as a substitute for the written examination, which is a Graduate School requirement. The decision of passing or failing the qualifying examination rests with the dissertation committee. The qualifying examination (written and, if required, oral) must be successfully completed, as documented by the dissertation committee, before the student can be admitted to candidacy.

### **ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY**

Advancement to candidacy requires the completion of all course work and passing the qualifying exam. Students should advance to candidacy at the end of their second year but must advance at least one semester prior to defending and graduation.

### **The Degree**

PhD students are expected to finish the PhD program in five years. Students are required to meet annually with their committee and provide a succinct one-page progress report. The advisor is expected to provide a statement summarizing this committee meeting and the student's progress.

### **DISSERTATION**

The complete written dissertation must be provided to the committee four weeks prior to the oral defense. The Announcement of Defense form, signed by all committee members, must be submitted to GSO 2 weeks before the intended defense. The final dissertation/thesis must be signed by all committee members and turned in to GS by the end of the subsequent full semester following the date of defense.

## **DEFENSE**

MBE requires a public oral presentation of a PhD dissertation. The public presentation may occur only after the committee has had sufficient time to review the written dissertation. Students should consult closely with their advisor and committee members throughout the course of their studies to minimize any possibility for dissension at the defense.

*Procedure if there is dissension on the acceptability of a thesis or dissertation:*

Note that there is a School-wide policy on Academic Appeals. See page the RSMAS student handbook for a description of this procedure. Alternatively for MBE students:

If during the final phase of evaluating a draft thesis/dissertation, or at the defense, a committee member refuses to approve the document and/or participate in the defense, and this results in fewer than the requisite number of signatures, the following procedure can be followed:

The student and his or her advisor will recommend to the MBE AC, and the AC will consent to a specific third party reviewer with expertise in the research area to read the document and render an opinion as to its acceptability. The reviewer will attend the defense (if possible), and provide the MBE AC with a written evaluation. The AC will then render a decision regarding the acceptability of the thesis/dissertation, weighing all evidence including the reviewer's report. This decision will be conveyed to the Department Chair in the form of a recommendation, and depending on the requirements for committee composition, with either the chairperson or Associate Dean signing the document. Dissenting members of the Thesis/Dissertation Committee do not sign the document but may register a minority report.

## **Degree Progress, Warnings, Problems, and Academic Probation**

The MBE faculty monitors students' progress each year. The expected time to completion for degrees is:

MS: 2 to 2.5 years

PhD: 4 years for students entering with an MS; 5 years for student entering with a bachelor's degree

### **MAXIMUM YEARS IN THE PROGRAM AND RECENCY OF CREDIT**

As designated by the Graduate School, PhD students must complete all degree requirements within eight years, including leaves of absence; credits must be revalidated after 7 years. If the student remains for a PhD after completing an MS at RSMAS, the date of entry is enrollment in the PhD program, and credits from that time forward are the only ones affected by this policy. The Associate Dean may refuse to allow a student completing the 8<sup>th</sup> year in the program to register for a future semester. In such cases, the PhD work is forfeited.

### **ACADEMIC WARNING AND PROBATION**

A student may not be allowed to enroll after the fall of the second year unless they have passed the comprehensive exam.

A student may not be allowed to enroll after the fall of the third year unless they have defended the proposal and passed the qualifying exam.

A student may not be allowed to enroll in the third or subsequent years unless they document the annual dissertation committee meeting.

If there is a problem with a student's progress, the student and advisor will be called to appear before the MBE AC to discuss the problem and possible solutions. If meeting with the AC does not solve the problem with the student's progress, the AC can recommend dismissal from the University. Students and their advisors can at any time speak to any member of the AC about a situation that is causing delays in the student's progress.

Confidentiality will be maintained, or why it cannot be maintained will be explained.

*Resetting the timeline for degree completion*

If a student falls significantly behind the schedule for a degree because of a major event such as a change of advisor, change of research project, personal hardship, or other unforeseen events, the student and advisor may petition the AC to "reset the clock" for completion of the degree. Recency of credit is unaffected by resetting the clock.

## **ENTRY INTO THE PH.D. PROGRAM**

### *Correcting Errors in Degree Program:*

Occasionally, a student who intended to enter the PhD program is registered as an MS student at the time of acceptance. To correct this error, a memorandum signed by the student's advisor is sent to GSO with a copy directed to the MBE AC. The same process is followed for the opposite circumstances.

### *Enrollment in the PhD program after completion of the MS at RSMAS:*

Completion of the MS degree in MBE does not guarantee acceptance to the PhD program. If admission to the PhD program is desired, the thesis committee must recommend this at the time of the MS defense in the form of a memo to the AC. The student must then complete a readmission form. Finally, there must be a faculty member with funds available to act as the student's advisor. It is recommended that this process be initiated at least three months in advance of the enrollment date.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Any time the student is not registered at the University for a period of one or more semesters constitutes a leave of absence. All leaves must be approved in advance by the AC via memorandum from the student's advisor or committee and indicating the advisor's approval. The readmission form must be approved by the AC. Students are cautioned that the Recency of Credit rule set by the Graduate School continues during leaves of absence.

### **FUNDING**

Most PhD students in the Program are supported by research assistantships and teaching assistantships. These types of support include tuition, stipend, and research funds. In addition, certain departmental, School or University Fellowships provide support of varying duration and composition. Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants are awarded tuition scholarships under the terms of current RSMAS policy. See GSO for any questions on this policy. Most fellowships/scholarships are available only to doctoral students. Scholarship funds are listed in the RSMAS handbook.

### **STUDENT FILES**

The MBE AC tracks the progress of MBE students. Thus it is useful if students filing relevant forms with GSO correspond with the AC about these submissions.

### **APPEALS AND CHANGES IN POLICY**

The student may appeal any decision made by the MBE AC to the RSMAS Graduate AC, and, if necessary, subsequently to the Associate Dean for Graduate Education.

All students should be aware that there is no right to a degree, and that the MPS, MS and PhD degrees are conferred only with approval of their graduate, thesis, or dissertation committees, respectively, and completion of all degree requirements issued by the Department, the School, and the University. The MBE faculty recognizes that the guidelines for obtaining degrees will evolve in any healthy program. Any faculty member or student who has recommendations should contact the AC.

## **Master of Science in Marine Biology and Ecology Degree (MS)**

### **Overview**

This is intended as a full time, 2-year (21-24 mos) degree that includes a thesis equivalent to a single published scientific paper.

There will be a single advisor who is a member of the Graduate Faculty of the University who holds a faculty appointment in the Department.

Requires 30 credits: 24 course credits (18 of which must be from UM) and 6 research credits (RES810, 830). The first year of the 2-yr full time program will normally consist of 18 course credits over 2 semesters and 1 research credit for any semester in which enrollment in <9 credits, to reach full time student status. The third semester will normally consist of 6 course credits and 2 research credits; the 4<sup>th</sup> semester will consist of the balance of research credits required to reach 6.

The thesis research will begin during summer 1, continue at a reduced pace during the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, and be completed during 4<sup>th</sup> semester.

Two funding models currently exist:

Stipend, tuition, insurance and research costs are borne by the advisor.

A self-funded MS for which no student stipend is required of the PI. Research costs of the thesis will be borne by the PI. Tuition and insurance are paid by the student.  
Students may enter the program during fall or spring.

### **Curriculum**

#### Semesters 1-2 (~9 course credits/term)

Three courses from core course offerings: Fall is MBE615 (TrMarEcol), MBE704 (BioOc), MBE608 (Biomty);  
Spring is MBE710 (PhysMarEnv), MBE655 (GrPhysiol)  
RSM700 (Research Ethics, required of all UM students)  
plus electives

1 research credit for any term in which enrollment falls below 9 cr.

#### Semesters 3-4

Balance of course credits from electives.

≥1 research credit for any term in which enrollment falls below 9 cr.

Goal is to complete 24 course credits and 6 research credits by end of 4<sup>th</sup> term\*

\*some of the research credits can be taken during summer 2, if research continues

### Comprehensive exam

To be completed at the conclusion of the 3 required core courses, see p. 3 of this guide.

### Committee

Formed at end of year 1. Consists of 3 members: Advisor within the Department who is a member of the Graduate faculty, plus 1 RSMAS member, plus 1 member from outside MBE or outside RSMAS. Of these latter 2, one must be Graduate Faculty such that the committee has ≥2 Graduate Faculty members.

First committee meeting during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### Proposal

Written and defended before semester 3 (Committee meeting #2), see format for dissertation proposal pp. 3-4 this guide; MS thesis proposal may be more succinct.

### Thesis

Preliminary research executed summer 1 (for some students this will precede 1<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting)

Research Semester 3

Research Semester 4

Thesis written and defended after Semester 4.

## **Master of Professional Science Degree**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

24-27 graduate course credits. All students are required to complete 24 – 27 course credits. Within each track, there are required classes and electives. Coursework is multi-disciplinary and thus will be accepted from multiple departments.

3-6 internship credits. Completion of an internship with an approved agency, institution, or business, culminating in a formal report.

### **ADVISOR AND MENTOR**

The latest information is at <http://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/internship/> and related links.

Students will be assigned an academic advisor during their first semester in residence. The advisor must hold an appointment in the Department representing the student's track selection. This advisor will offer guidance regarding University expectations, coursework, registration, program details, and graduation requirements. At the beginning of the first semester, the student and the academic advisor will establish the curriculum to be followed, based on the track selected and the student's personal and professional goals. Each student will also identify and request the involvement of a faculty mentor, who will act as a resource to the student regarding career guidance and the selection of an appropriate internship. The faculty mentor should be someone whose

research and work interests the student, and his or her role as a mentor should be confirmed no later than the end of the first semester. Though RSMAS faculty members are preferred to take on the role as mentors, individuals from approved agencies, institutions, or businesses may also fulfill this role.

### **COMMITTEE**

All MPS students must have a graduate committee of at least 3 members. This committee will include your academic advisor and two mentors, one internal mentor (i.e. faculty mentor) and one “outside” member. The “Appointment to Student Committee” form is due during the second semester in residence.

### **COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

A comprehensive examination is required of all MPS students after completing at least 18 course credits and prior to beginning an internship. The exam will be written and will be based on the material covered in each student’s courses. Each Department determines the content and form of the examination and establishes the test date for its students in a given year-class, according to general School guidelines. In the event of a failure, a student may be re-examined once, upon the advice of the student's advisor and at the discretion of the faculty of the Department. If granted, the re-examination must be given before the end of the following semester. The GSO should receive written notification of the examination results. *Students who fail the re-examination are subject to dismissal from the school.*

### **PRE-INTERNSHIP**

Before being allowed to begin an internship, a student must:

- a) submit the “Internship Agreement” Form, highlighting the timeline, goals, expectations, and objectives of the internship
- b) have the internship approved by your committee and the Internship Supervisor
- c) complete at least 12 credits, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0
- d) remove all "I"s or deficiencies

### **INTERNSHIP**

Each student will be required to complete an internship with an organization engaged in some activity associated with marine and/or atmospheric science and identify an Internship Supervisor. Such organizations can be national or international agencies, private corporations, or foreign governments with clearly defined marine-oriented programs or activities. Internships can be either paid or unpaid by the organization, or interns can complete the internship by formal participation in a University sponsored program in some area of marine science. A detailed synopsis of a proposed contribution to the hosting organization is required as a formal proposal, preferably before the internship begins, but no later than 2 weeks after the start date. The internship proposal will include: an introduction to the topic (i.e. a literature review), a statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, methods and materials (i.e. the proposed activities and analyses), a timeline, and plans for disseminating the information. An internship proposal template and guidelines will be provided. In addition, a strict requirement for the completion of the MPS degree is an oral presentation, preferably offered to the hosting organization, and a detailed report. Institutions may release an intern before the end of the proposed time commitment, and an intern may also terminate the position with an institution at any time, provided there are significant reasons not to proceed. In either case, due process will include a conference with the intern, the supervisor, and the student’s academic committee members. The resolution of any problems should occur during this meeting. However, should the problems continue, or are deemed to be irreparable/irrevocable, the internship may be terminated, and the plans for the involved student will be reevaluated by the student’s committee.

### **INTERNSHIP REPORT**

The final grade (pass/fail) will be based on a written report and an oral presentation. The internship report is not a summary of involvement but rather a contributory assessment of the experience, including developmental insight and a summary of any research performed. Seven copies of the final approved report should be distributed as follows:

One electronic copy for the representative Department (MBE, OCE, MES)

One electronic copy to each member of your committee

One copy for the representative agency, institution, or business (electronic and/or hard copy at their request)

One electronic copy to the RSMAS Library

One electronic copy on a CD to GSO

The report must be accompanied by one original of the Certificate of Approval signed by the Academic Advisor and the MPS Associate Dean. Instructions and forms are available in GSO.

### **CONFERENCE**

Though not mandatory, MPS students are strongly encouraged to attend a scientific conference during their academic residency at RSMAS.

### **RESIDENCY**

For full-time students, residency will be limited to 24-months within a continuous 30-month period. A student who has not completed all of the requirements for graduation within this time period will be required to petition the division for continuation. Graduate coursework and associated credits completed at RSMAS are valid for a maximum of 5 years. If a student does not graduate within 5 years of starting the MPS program; they must be reevaluated for enrollment and continuation.

### **TRANSFER OF CREDITS**

A total of 6 credits may be transferred into the MPS degree program from an outside institution, provided that those credits did not result in the conferral of another degree and were completed within 5 years of the start date of the MPS program. However, all courses must be evaluated by the academic advisor and approved by the instructor of the equivalent RSMAS class prior to transfer/acceptance.

### **UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI CREDITS TAKEN AS AN UNDERGRADUATE**

If pursuing an MPS degree in MBE, you may complete 6 credits of required coursework while in residence as an undergraduate. However, none of those credits can fulfill undergraduate graduation requirements.

### **DISTINCTION BETWEEN MPS & MS**

Students in the MPS degree program must complete a 3-6 month internship and execute an internship and submit a written report for approval by their committee. Students in the MS program must execute and write a MS thesis, which is an original research project synthesized into a manuscript comparable in scope and content to a peer-reviewed journal publication. The thesis may be conducted as part of research conducted at RSMAS or another academic institution, or as part of a collaborative effort with a federal, state, local, or non-governmental agency, or a private institution.

### **TRANSFER FROM MPS TO MS**

Students may request to be considered for transfer from the MPS program into the MS program. These requests must be submitted PRIOR to the start of the second semester and/or before the completion of 12 graduate course credits. Transfers from the MPS to the MS will not be considered after students have completed 12 or more credits.

### **Appendix**

#### **MBE GRADUATE FACULTY 2015-2016\***

Babcock, Elizabeth

Baker, Andrew

Brand, Larry

Crawford, Douglas

D'Allesandro, Evan

Fieber, Lynne

Glynn, Peter

Grosell, Martin

Hitchcock, Gary

Langdon, Chris

Lirman, Diego

McDonald, Danielle  
McManus, John  
Oleksiak, Margie  
Ortner, Peter  
Richardson, Jill  
Schmale, Michael  
Serafy, Joseph  
Wood, Chris

\*For a list of University Graduate Faculty, see

[http://www.miami.edu/gs/index.php/graduate\\_school/current\\_students/graduate\\_faculty\\_list\\_by\\_department/](http://www.miami.edu/gs/index.php/graduate_school/current_students/graduate_faculty_list_by_department/)