Marine Sciences

The Marine Vertebrate Biology major provides students with a solid background in basic biology with an emphasis on marine vertebrate organisms such as fish, sharks, birds, turtles and marine mammals. It provides a more intensive zoology background than the Marine Sciences degree.

Students are encouraged to participate in research and internships. Opportunities for experiential learning are available through field and laboratory courses taught at or near the Stony Brook campus and from a field station at the Stony Brook Southampton campus.

Most students who wish to have a career in research related to the marine environment will need to plan for graduate study. Career possibilities include research, education, or work in government agencies or non-profit organizations. The Marine Vertebrate Biology major is also good preparation for the Master of Arts in Teaching high school biology program or a pre-vet or pre-med program. A few additional courses are required for admission to the MAT program or for veterinary or medical school admission.

Transferable Skills

- Analytical and critical thinking
- Foundational science knowledge
- Presentation, public speaking, & didactic skills
- Technical writing skills
- Research skills
- Manage time efficiently by setting priorities
- Evidence and data acquisition and analysis
- A deep understanding of marine mammals
- Knowledge of scientific tools
- Communication skills

Career Communities to Consider

- Research
- Public Service
- Education & Helping Professions
- Healthcare