

## INTERCAMPUS PROGRAMS

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (PhD)

MARINE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (PhD, MS)

GRADUATE CONSORTIUM IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

### Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology Faculty (UMass Boston)

**Steven M Ackerman** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Pennsylvania* • Gene Regulation in Plants and Animals

**Gregory Beck** (Biology Department), PhD, *State University of New York, Stony Brook* • Evolutionary and Molecular Immunology

**Kenneth L Campbell** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Michigan* • Reproductive Endocrinology

**Robert Chen** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of California San Diego* • Environmental Monitoring

**Adan Colon-Carmona** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of California Irvine* • Plant Signal Transduction and Molecular Biology

**Ron J Etter** (Biology Department), PhD, *Harvard University* • Evolution and Ecology of Marine Invertebrates

**William Hagar** (Biology Department), PhD, *Temple University* • Environmental Monitoring and Photobiology

**Linda Huang** (Biology Department), PhD, *California Institute of Technology* • Processes Governing Cell Polarity and Morphology

**Greg Huber** (Physics Department), PhD, *Boston University* • Cellular Biomechanics and Membrane Elasticity

**Richard Kesseli** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of California at Davis* • Population Genetics

**Kenneth C Kleene** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Washington* • Molecular and Developmental Biology

**Curtis Olsen** (EEOS Department), PhD, *Columbia University* • Ecological Processes and Bioremediation

**Alexia Pollack** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Virginia* • Neuropharmacology and Neuroanatomy

**William E Robinson** (EEOS Department), PhD, *Northeastern University* • Aquatic Toxicology

**Michael P Shiaris** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Tennessee* • Microbial Ecology

**Rachel C Skvirsky** (Biology Department), PhD, *Harvard University* • Molecular Genetics

**Robert Stevenson** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Washington* • Animal Physiology

**Manickam Sugumaran** (Biology Department), PhD, *Indian Institute of Science* • Protein Chemistry and Enzymology

**Ying Tan** (Biology Department), PhD, *Yale University* • Molecular Evolution

### The Program

The Multicampus Joint Master of Science and PhD Degree in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology (BMEBT) is a cross-disciplinary program designed to link research and graduate education at the Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester campuses of the University of Massachusetts. The BMEBT program exemplifies the advantages of bringing together a broad array of allied disciplines (biology, chemistry, computer science, clinical laboratory science, engineering, physics) that emphasizes the development of new technologies and application of research to contemporary biomedical health problems. The BMEBT program is unique in that it is open to a wide range of baccalaureate degree recipients with engineering, physical science, life science, and related backgrounds, and that it emphasizes a multidisciplinary, team approach in course/seminar presentations, laboratory rotations, and joint projects prior to dissertation topic specialization. Students enrolled in the BMEBT program take a range of courses across the four UMass campuses.

UMass Boston students enrolled in the BMEBT program will choose the Biotechnology Specialization option of the program, because the research strengths of the university relevant to this program are in biotechnology. Students interested in Biomedical Engineering specializations should seek other campuses. Each campus involved in this program has different strengths that will appeal to different subsets of BMEBT students. Students may not submit more than one application to the BMEBT program; students must determine which campus best fits their research interests. Students applying to the BMEBT program at UMass Boston will be encouraged to identify a faculty member performing research that fits well with the student's interests before admission into the program. BMEBT researchers at UMass Boston integrate basic research in cellular, molecular, and organismal biology of bacteria, plants, invertebrates, and mammals.

### Facilities and Resources

The UMass Boston Biology Department's modern facilities support a broad spectrum of research interests. The well-equipped research laboratories contain facilities for automated DNA sequencing and analysis, electron, light, and fluorescence microscopy, filmless autoradiography and fluorescence imaging, protein analysis and chromatography, electrophysiology, molecular biology, video analysis, and animal care. In addition, ample field equipment, boats, a greenhouse, saltwater tanks, and other support facilities are available for enhancing studies in marine, aquatic, and terrestrial environments. BMEBT researchers at UMass Boston are supported by grant awards from the NSF, NIH, USDA, NOAA, ONR, and National Sea Grant.

### PhD Degree Requirements

#### Course Work

To receive the PhD in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology, the student must complete sixty-three credits, distributed as follows:

- required (core) courses (16 credits) and specialization courses (12 credits);
- directed studies (3 credits) and doctoral seminar (2 credits); and
- research credit (30 credits).

The student must take 16 credits (six courses) in the core course area. These courses are:

- Introduction to Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology
- Instrumentation and Laboratory Experience
- Applied Math for Life Sciences or Advanced Numerical Methods
- Quantitative Physiology
- Bioethics
- Advanced Cell and Molecular Biology

A minimum of 12 additional specialization credits (four courses) must be taken, subject to the approval of the student's dissertation committee. Students may specialize in: Biomaterials, Biomedical Information Systems, Biomedical Instrumentation, Biomechanics, Medical Imaging, Medical Physics, Agricultural Biotechnology, Applied Microbiology, and Molecular Biotechnology.

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Relevant courses available at UMass Boston include (full course descriptions may be found in the individual program sections):

BIOL 602 Plant Molecular Biology and Physiology  
 BIOL L608/PHYSIC L608 Biophysical Instrumentation  
 BIOL 612 Advanced Cell Biology  
 BIOL 614 Advanced Cell Chemistry  
 BIOL 615 Immunology  
 BIOL 622 Concepts and Methods in Cytology  
 BIOL 626 Molecular Genetics of Bacteria  
 BIOL 628 Microbial Ecology  
 BIOL 635 Population Genetics and Diversity  
 BIOL 640 Principles of Qualitative Modeling in Biology  
 BIOL 645 Ecological and Evolutionary Aspects of Plant-Animal Interactions  
 BIOL 646 Pollutants in Marine Food Chains  
 BIOL 650 Scientific Communication  
 BIOL 653 Current Literature in Biology  
 BIOL L658/ECOS L658 Environmental Physiology  
 BIOL 662 Photobiology  
 BIOL 664 Computer Analysis of DNA and Protein Sequences  
 BIOL 666 Mammalian Toxicology  
 BIOL 668 Cellular and Molecular Endocrinology  
 BIOL 670 Tissue Culture  
 BIOL 672,673 Directed Readings in Biology  
 BIOL 675 Advanced Molecular Biology  
 BIOL 676 Advanced Molecular Biology Lecture  
 BIOL 677 Advanced Eukaryotic Genetics  
 BIOL 678 Protein Chemistry and Enzymology  
 BIOL 679 Protein Chemistry and Enzymology Lecture  
 BIOL L680/CHEM L680 Physical Biochemistry  
 BIOL 685 Biochemical Tracers  
 BIOL 691 Seminar in Developmental Biology  
 BIOL 692 Advanced Physiology  
 BIOL 693 Seminar in Neurobiology  
 BIOL 697 Special Topics in Biology  
 BIOL 698 Projects in Biology  
 BIOL 720 Cell Ultrastructure  
 BIOL 899 Dissertation Research

**Project/Directed Studies and Doctoral Seminar:** In addition to the 12 specialization credits, students are required to take at least 5 credits of appropriate project studies and seminar courses. Project/Directed Studies courses are team-based cross-disciplinary collaborations with other scientists that will result in a written or oral presentation at a multicampus research symposium. The Doctoral Seminar course is a seminar series with intercampus emphasis with outside speakers and student presentations.

**Research:** Students must take a minimum of 30 dissertation credits.

### Other Requirements

#### Teaching

Students are required to participate in the teaching program as teaching assistants for at least two semesters. The teaching responsibility is intended to enhance the experience and skills of the PhD candidate.

#### GPA

To continue in the PhD program, the student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 and may not receive a grade of "C" in more than one course.

#### Written Comprehensive and Oral Qualifying Examinations

Students must pass two examinations before they undertake research at the doctoral level: 1) a written comprehensive examination to test the student's command and knowledge of four specific areas of biology, and 2) a subsequent oral qualifying examination based on a) the oral description and defense of the student's dissertation proposal, and b) comprehensive questioning focused on the four areas covered in the written exam.

The written comprehensive examination may be taken at the end of the student's first year, or after the completion of at least 18 credits of course work; it should generally be taken by the end of four semesters or 36 credits of course work. The student will defend four areas, drawn from the array of graduate courses offered in the department or from other areas acceptable to the AAC (Academic Advisory Committee) and approved by the Graduate Committee.

A student who fails the written examination may, at the discretion of the academic advisory committee, be permitted a second and final written examination after six months. A student failing the examination a second time may either 1) withdraw from the program or 2) formally petition the AAC for permission to work toward a master's degree in biology, in biotechnology and biomedical science, or in environmental sciences. A student may not continue in the PhD program after a second failure of the comprehensive examination.

Generally, within one month of the written exam, the student should submit a brief description of his or her dissertation proposal to the AAC and the GPD. Before taking the oral examination, the student should also confer with members of the AAC on the soundness of the proposal. The student should also discuss, with the individual members of the AAC, the possible deficiencies in the written exam. Generally, the oral qualifying exam should be scheduled within one month after the submission of the dissertation proposal.

On successfully completing the qualifying examination, the student becomes a candidate for the PhD degree. The student is allowed up to five more years to complete and successfully defend a scholarly dissertation.

#### Departmental Presentation

Approximately nine to twelve months after the student's advance to candidacy, the student will present a seminar, based on his or her work in progress, to the entire department.

#### Dissertation Committee

After becoming a candidate for the PhD, the student must choose a dissertation advisor and committee. The dissertation committees will generally, but not necessarily, comprise the three members of the AAC and one member from outside the department. With the approval of the GPD and the Graduate Committee, faculty from outside the Biology Department or non-UMass Boston faculty will be permitted to co-sponsor a student's dissertation work. Dissertation committees for Boston-based students must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies and meet the university-wide requirements for such committees as described in the "Doctoral Degree Requirements" section of this bulletin.

#### Dissertation Defense

A final public dissertation defense will be administered by a dissertation panel comprising at least five members, including a) the Dissertation Committee; and b) the Biology GPD or (if the GPD is already on the dissertation committee) a member of the Graduate Committee. The defense will be chaired by the student's dissertation advisor and will be scheduled after the student has submitted an advance draft of the manuscript to the dissertation panel and after the panel has agreed that the student is ready to defend it.

# Intercampus Programs

## Marine Sciences and Technology Faculty (UMass Boston)

**Gregory Beck** (Biology Department), PhD, *State University of New York at Stony Brook*  
• Evolutionary Immunology

**Robert E Bowen** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Southern California*  
• Environmental Policy and Management

**Solange Brault** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of London* • Population and Conservation Ecology

**Robert F Chen** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of California, San Diego*  
• Organic Geochemistry/Marine Organic Chemistry • Environmental Education

**Joseph J Cooney** (EEOS Department) (Emeritus, NA), PhD, *Syracuse University*  
• Microbial Physiology and Ecology

**Ron J Etter** (Biology Department), PhD, *Harvard University* • Evolution and Ecology of Marine Invertebrates

**Eugene D Gallagher** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Washington* • Benthic Ecology • Environmental Statistics • Marine Community Structure

**George B Gardner** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Washington* • Physical Oceanography (Part-time)

**William Hagar** (Biology Department), PhD, *Temple University* • Environmental Monitoring and Photobiology

**Harlyn Halvorson** (Prof Emeritus, EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Illinois*  
• Microbiology

**John Looney, Jr.** (EEOS Department), EdD, *Boston University* • Estuaries/Science Education

**Sarah D Oktay** (Nantucket Field Station), PhD, *Texas A&M University*  
• Chemical Oceanography (Part-time)

**Curtis R Olsen** (EEOS Department), PhD, *Columbia University* • Environmental Biogeochemistry

**Michael A Rex** (Biology Department), PhD, *Harvard University* • Deep-Sea Biology

**William E Robinson** (EEOS Department), PhD, *Northeastern University* • Aquatic Toxicology

**Michael P Shiaris** (Biology Department), PhD, *University of Tennessee* • Microbial Ecology

**David G Terkla** (EEOS and Economics Departments), PhD, *University of California, Berkeley* • Environmental and Resource Economics

**Juanita L Urban-Rich** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Maryland* • Zooplankton Ecology

**Gordon T Wallace** (EEOS Department), PhD, *University of Rhode Island* • Aquatic and Atmospheric Chemistry

**Xuchen Wang** (EEOS Department), PhD, *State University of New York at Stony Brook*  
• Geochemistry and Carbon Isotope Geochemistry (Part-time)

**Jack Wiggan** (Urban Harbors Institute), MS, *Boston State College*

## The Programs

The UMass Intercampus Graduate School (IGS) of Marine Sciences and Technology offers both master's (MS) and doctoral (PhD) programs in marine sciences and technology. Students graduating with an MS or PhD degree from IGS receive a joint degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell. The degree programs are fundamentally grounded in a broad, integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the study of marine sciences and technology. Students located at the four participating campuses are required to complete "core" courses selected from the natural and social sciences to equip them for interdisciplinary studies and research before focusing upon an area of concentration.

The programs prepare students for employment opportunities in the private and governmental sectors and academia. Emphasis is placed on the education of researchers and scholars who will contribute not only to basic research but also to the application of that research in a coherent approach to resource management and economic development issues.

Combining facilities and resources on four campuses into a single, coherent graduate program greatly expands the opportunities for IGS students. Students have access to a much greater range of education and research opportunities, expertise, and facilities than exists on one campus alone. Each campus has a number of departments and interdepartmental programs with areas of strength in marine-sciences related teaching, research, and outreach that either complement or constitute critical units of IGS.

IGS is also closely affiliated with a number of on-campus research centers and institutes and off-campus marine research facilities, expanding its realm of research opportunities and resources.

## Core Courses

To achieve interdisciplinary breadth and depth, each IGS student will be required to take courses in five areas:

Biological Oceanography (BO)  
Chemical Oceanography (CO)  
Physical Oceanography (PO)  
Socio-Economics of Coastal/Marine Systems (S/E)  
Marine-Related Technologies (MT)

Courses in BO, CO, and PO are generally taken in the first 4 to 6 semesters (preferably in the first 2). For each area, course content is fairly uniform, though there may be multiple offerings between campuses.

Courses in S/E and MT are taken after selection of an area of concentration. Course content is not uniform and selection of courses should be consistent with a student's concentration area. Depending on the student's concentration, the socio-economic requirement might be met best by courses in policy, economics, law, or international/intergovernmental relations. Courses satisfying the technology requirement could be drawn from such areas as marine measurement technology, wastewater and environmental mitigation technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Data/Information Management Systems, graphic display technologies, or marine modeling approaches.

To build on the core courses, each IGS student selects an area of concentration and chooses electives appropriate to this concentration, as approved by their faculty advisor and/or thesis committee. Reflecting the interdisciplinary character of IGS, both natural and social science courses support certain concentrations, and many courses support more than one concentration.

Students typically take most of their courses on the campus where they and their major faculty advisor are in residence. Some courses, however, including at least two core courses each semester, will also be taught using the University's substantial distance-learning facilities. Students may also choose to be in residence at different campuses for a period of time during their course of study, in order to take certain courses or to take advantage of research opportunities.

## Admissions Standards

Successful applicants will generally have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree with a GPA of 3.00 or better and will have an undergraduate major in one of the basic scientific disciplines or engineering, or will have strong multidisciplinary

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training with completion of at least six semesters of coursework in the natural sciences, generally to include biology, chemistry, and/or physics. Preparation in mathematics at least through integral calculus is strongly encouraged. Students who do not meet these criteria need to identify a faculty advocate who must bring a request for exception before the Admissions Committee. At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, applicants may make up deficiencies in prior coursework either before or after admission is granted to the IGS. Consideration will be on a case-by-case basis, and the recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to the Dean for approval.

Candidates may apply for admission at either the master's or doctoral level. Students admitted directly into the doctoral program are expected to have exceptional academic credentials and/or work experience. Students entering with a bachelor's degree may be required to complete the requirements of a master's degree before admission to the doctoral program. Students entering with a master's may be admitted at the doctoral level provided the degree, coursework, and research experience warrant such a decision by the Admissions Committee.

### Application Criteria

The Admissions Committee will evaluate a number of additional criteria in its consideration of applications. They include performance on the Graduate Record Examinations (GREs), TOEFL (if appropriate), letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a statement of interest and intent. Successful applicants will generally have combined verbal and quantitative GRE scores greater than or equal to 1200, and a strong analytical score. International students must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum of 600 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) is strongly recommended. GRE subject tests may also be used in evaluation but are not required.

Three letters of recommendation from referees familiar with the applicant's academic and/or work experience are required.

Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework must be submitted.

Statements of interest and intent are also requested.

- The statement of interest should provide reviewers an indication of the motivation of the student for pursuing graduate work.
- The statement of intent should describe how graduate training would address the student's career goals.

The applicant is strongly encouraged to identify one or more faculty members who could serve as the applicant's advisor, at least initially, upon admission. To this end, discussions with individual faculty before completing the application are strongly encouraged.

### The PhD Program

The PhD program includes four core courses taken by all students (12 credits), courses in a concentration area beyond the core, seminars, and dissertation research. Work in the concentration area usually includes a minimum of 24 credit hours of courses and helps the student prepare for the written and oral candidacy examinations. PhD students are not normally accepted as part-time students. Courses may be taken at any IGS-affiliated program on the four campuses, in other departments, or at other area institutions and may be included in a student's program of studies as determined by the student's major advisor and/or dissertation committee.

### Core Course Requirements

Each IGS student must complete four core courses (12 credits), one in each of four core areas: biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, physical oceanography, and Marine Policy and/or Management areas (including law and economics). The core courses are intended to provide a common grounding in the biological, chemical, and physical oceanographic areas of marine sciences and technology and in related marine policy and management disciplines. At least two core courses are offered each semester using the University's substantial distance-learning facilities and technology. Students normally complete the core courses in the first two semesters.

### Concentrations and Electives

To build on the core courses, each IGS student selects an area of concentration and chooses a marine policy or management core course and electives appropriate to this concentration, as approved by his/her faculty advisor and/or thesis committee. Students typically take most of their elective courses on the campus where they and their major faculty advisor are in residence. Some elective courses, however, will also be taught via distance learning. In addition, students may choose to be in residence at different campuses for a period of time during their course of study, in order to take certain courses or to take advantage of research opportunities.

### Weekly Seminars

Weekly seminars presented by students and by visiting speakers are intended to broaden the scope of each student's experience and to provide experience in verbal communication. Each MS student must present at least one seminar in the third or fourth semester. Attendance at the weekly seminars is required during all four semesters, for which students receive 1 credit for each of the first two semesters but no credit for the second two semesters.

### Candidacy Examinations and Dissertation

No later than the end of the fourth semester, the student and major faculty advisor select additional faculty who constitute the student's graduate committee, and the student presents a written dissertation proposal to the committee. The student's major advisor and committee may determine a later date for the presentation of the dissertation proposal. A student's committee is chaired by the student's major advisor and guides the student's research. Committee members may be selected from IGS faculty, other departments, and other institutions. All committees must include at least one IGS faculty member from a campus other than the campus where the student resides. Dissertation committees for Boston-based students must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies and meet the university-wide requirements for such committees as described in the "Doctoral Degree Requirements" section of this bulletin.

Successful performance in the core courses is required for advancement to degree status. A grade of B or better in each core course and an overall average of 3.0 in the core courses are required. There is a retake option on a course for which the student receives a grade of B- or less.

No later than the sixth semester, the student's committee administers the written and oral candidacy examinations. The candidacy examinations are comprehensive and cover the core areas and the student's area of concentration. They are designed to test the intellectual competence and maturity of the student in the broad area of marine sciences and technology and in the selected area of concentration. Upon successful completion of the PhD candidacy examinations, the student is awarded an en-route MS degree.

A scholarly dissertation based on original research is required of all PhD candidates. Dissertation research may be done in the laboratory or the field, or may be carried out in

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part during residence with an appropriate private business or government agency. Presentation and defense of a satisfactory dissertation, normally to be completed within five years from the date of advancement to candidacy, fulfill the degree requirements. The dissertation defense consists of a public lecture on the dissertation and a subsequent oral examination by the candidate's dissertation committee.

### The MS Program

The MS program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours with the thesis option and 33 credit hours with the non-thesis option. Students are required to take three core courses (9 credits) and choose additional courses appropriate to a selected area of concentration. Attendance at a weekly seminar series is required (1 credit each for two semesters), and each student must present at least one seminar in his/her third or fourth semester. Full-time MS students normally complete their degree requirements in four semesters. Part-time MS students are encouraged to take two courses per semester.

### Core Course Requirements

Each IGS student must complete three core courses (9 credits), which include two out of three of the core courses in biological, chemical, and physical oceanography and a third core course in marine policy and/or management areas (including law and economics). The core courses are intended to provide a common grounding in the biological, chemical, and physical oceanographic areas of marine sciences and technology and in related marine policy and management disciplines. Courses covering technology and quantitative skills are generally subject to student choice and guidance committee approval, though there may be requirements specific to each option area. At least two core courses are offered each semester using the University's substantial distance-learning facilities and technology. Students normally complete the core courses in the first two semesters.

### Concentrations and Electives

To build on the core courses, each IGS student selects an area of concentration and chooses a marine policy or management core course and electives appropriate to this concentration, as approved by his/her faculty advisor and/or thesis committee.

Students typically take most of their elective courses on the campus where they and their major faculty advisor are in residence. Some elective courses, however, will also be

taught via distance learning. In addition, students may choose to be in residence at different campuses for a period of time during their course of study, in order to take certain courses or to take advantage of research opportunities.

### Weekly Seminars

Weekly seminars presented by students and by visiting speakers are intended to broaden the scope of each student's experience and to provide experience in verbal communication. Each MS student must present at least one seminar in the third or fourth semester. Attendance at the weekly seminars is required during all four semesters, for which students receive 1 credit for each of the first two semesters but no credit for the second two semesters.

### Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

MS students may choose either a thesis or non-thesis option. Each student electing the thesis option will be assigned a Thesis Committee, chaired by the student's major advisor, which will be responsible for ensuring that the student fulfills all requirements of the IGS as well as other campus requirements, including presentation of a thesis defense consisting of a public lecture on the thesis and a subsequent oral examination by the Thesis Committee. Each student electing the non-thesis option, in addition to an additional 3 credits, must complete a substantial research paper that must be read and approved by the major advisor and at least one other faculty member.

### Admissions Procedures

The Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth processes all applications for admission to the graduate programs of the Intercampus Graduate School for Marine Science and Technology. Applications, associated materials, and any inquiries about the application should be addressed to that campus.

A single application form has been prepared for the use of applicants for admission to the Intercampus Graduate School of Marine Sciences and Technology. It will be made available in the graduate admissions offices of each participating campus. It is also available in PDF format (78Kb). Viewing a PDF requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Admission decisions will be made as expeditiously as possible once the application file is complete. Applications should be completed and submitted prior to June 1 for Fall admission.

For assistance with an application  
Voice: 508-999-8604  
Fax: 508-999-8183  
e-mail: graduate@umassd.edu  
Mail your application materials to  
Office of Graduate Studies  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
285 Old Westport Road  
North Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
02747-2300

### Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies

UMass Boston is a member of the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (GCWS), an association dedicated to advancing teaching and research in interdisciplinary Women's Studies at the graduate level. The GCWS brings together feminist scholars, teachers, and students at eight Boston-area institutions of higher education (Boston College, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston). Students currently enrolled in graduate programs at participating institutions are eligible to apply for admission to GCWS courses.

All GCWS courses are multidisciplinary, team-taught, and designed to break new intellectual ground and advance the field. One to three courses are offered each semester, with each course designed and team-taught by two or three professors from at least two different member institutions. Courses meet once a week and may be offered at the campus of any of the member institutions. Designed primarily for doctoral students, GCWS courses are also open to master's degree students or seniors writing honors theses in Women's Studies, with the consent of the admissions committee and instructors.

Future course listings are available from the campus representative to GCWS, through the UMass Boston Women's Studies Program. Any UMass Boston graduate student who would like to apply for admission to a particular GCWS course should first contact her/his own UMass Boston graduate program director to determine whether the proposed course may count toward elective credit in that program. Application is then made to the Consortium's Admissions Committee, through the campus representative to the GCWS. Once the student is admitted to a course, the UMass Boston Office of Graduate Studies will facilitate the process of registering the student for UMass Boston course credit.