Experience life in a world class community of science.
Spend your fall term doing research on ecosystems in wetlands, bays, and coastal forests on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Applications for Fall term due March 20, 2019
To download forms, visit:
mbl.edu/SES
(508) 289-7777
ses@mbl.edu

Approved for credit at more than fifty colleges and universities.
Academic Rigor and Hands-on Learning

If you're a student who likes a challenge and is serious about pursuing a career in environmental science, engineering or management, SES will not disappoint. You'll spend more than 20 hours each week in the lab and field learning state-of-the-art techniques for measuring biogeochemical processes in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. During the last 6 weeks of the course, you will apply these techniques to an independent research project and present your discoveries at a research symposium.

Past student projects have included work on impacts of sea level rise in marshes, comparisons of nutrient cycling between organic and traditional cranberry farming, restoration of coastal plain grasslands and evaluations of innovative methods of remediating nutrient and wastewater contamination in coastal ponds.

Woods Hole: a Community of Science

In addition to the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), five other independent research and educational institutions are located in the village: the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Sea Education Association, and the Woods Hole Research Center. Together, these institutions occupy more than 170 buildings, employ more than 1200 people and offer instruction to more than 500 students annually. Since 1888, MBL has promoted integration of scientific research with education and is dedicated to scientific discovery and improving the human condition in biology, biomedicine, and environmental science. MBL is a private, nonprofit research institute and an affiliate of the University of Chicago.

Over 56 Nobel Laureates have studied or taught at MBL, including current SES faculty member Jerry Mellilo, a Distinguished Scientist at the Ecosystems Center.

Opportunities for Research and Internships after SES

The strength of the ongoing research programs at MBL provides many opportunities for post-course research. SES faculty members are leading NSF-funded research at sites around the globe ranging from the Arctic to the Amazon, salt marshes to the deep sea. About one in five SES students return to the Ecosystems Center to work as interns, teaching or research assistants. Approximately 70% of SES graduates go on to graduate school and positions in environmental sciences.

A Beautiful Setting for Environmental Study

Formed from glacial deposits laid down over 10,000 years ago, Cape Cod is dotted with freshwater kettle ponds, and fringed with salt marshes, bays and estuaries. Human activities are transforming Cape Cod; thus it provides an ideal site for studying environmental challenges, such as loss of native habitat and biodiversity, groundwater contamination, eutrophication, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

What distinguishes SES?

My fellow SES students and I had so much fun and pushed ourselves to work harder than we ever had before. SES did an amazing job giving us an experience that really teaches what it’s like to be a researcher.”

— Emily Geoghegan, Bryn Mawr College, 2015 Alum

SES Courses

• Aquatic & Terrestrial Ecosystems Analysis
• An elective in either Mathematical Modeling in Ecology or Microbial Methods in Ecology
• A Science Writing Seminar
• An Independent Research Project

Approved for credit at more than 50 colleges, including:

Allegheany, Amherst, Bard, Bates, Beloit, Brandeis, Bryn Mawr, Carleton, Claremont McKenna, Clark, Clarkson, Colby, Colorado College, Connecticut College, Cornell, Dickinson, Earlham, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Grinnell, Hamilton, Hampshire, Harvey Mudd, Haverford, Kenyon, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lincoln Univ. (MO), Lynchburg, Middlebury, Morehouse, Mt Holyoke, Northwestern, Oberlin, Pomona, Randolph College, Ripon, Sarah Lawrence, Skidmore, Southwestern, Spelman, Syracuse, The Eugene Lang College of The New School, Trinity College (CT), Trinity Univ. (TX), Univ. of Chicago, Univ. of South (Sewanee), SUNY-ESF, Vassar, Wabash, Washington & Lee, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Wheaton (IL), Wheaton (MA), Williams, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

If you don’t see your school listed, contact us: SES@mbl.edu