PROGRAM OF STUDIES IN MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING AUTUMN 2015

The School of Marine & Environmental Affairs fosters comprehensive, long term and proactive approaches to marine policy and ocean and coastal management.

I. Introduction

The Master of Marine Affairs (M.M.A.) degree is granted by the School of Marine & Environmental Affairs, an academic and research unit of the College of the Environment. The M.M.A. degree program is a two-year graduate course of studies requiring the completion of 59 credits. The M.M.A. is designed to familiarize students with a diversity of conceptual and methodological approaches and fields of inquiry in Marine and Environmental Affairs. The thematic focus of the marine affairs graduate curriculum is Human Dimensions of Global Change in the Marine Environment (HDGCME).

The SMEA offers two tracks—a professional track and a thesis track—for completing the Master of Marine Affairs degree, depending on the student’s interests and career plans. Both tracks require completion of the core curriculum and a total of 59 credits. Students select the track at the latest by the 8th week of spring quarter of their first year.

Professional Track

Students in the professional track are expected to complete a team capstone project or additional course work. Students interested in working in a team and applying their knowledge of human dimensions of environmental change to address a specific, client identified policy or management issue complete a capstone project. Nine units of the 59 required credits are devoted to capstone project and presentation.

Students with specific career needs and goals, such as those already established in careers or those intending to change careers complete their degree requirements with course work only. All of the 59 required credits are devoted to course work.

Thesis Track

Students in the thesis track are expected to prepare a master’s thesis that meets the academic and professional standards of the School. A manuscript suitable for submission to a peer reviewed journal or an equivalent product meets these standards. Fifteen units of the 59 required credits are devoted to thesis research and presentation.
Continuing students, students on leave, or students who have withdrawn from the program are expected to return to the program in the same track from which they departed. That is, students in the thesis track return in the thesis track, and students in the professional track return in that track. A student in the thesis track may not use the professional track option to avoid completion of the thesis requirement.

The required credits are distributed among the following topics:

**A. The Core Curriculum.** Typically 29 credits for professional track and 32 credits for thesis track (credit hours per course are listed in parentheses)

  * Introductory sequence
    * Introduction to The Human Dimensions of Global Change SMEA 500 (3)
    * Integrated Marine Affairs Practice SMEA 501 (3)
    * Decision Making & Action Taking in Marine Affairs SMEA502 (3)

  * Core areas of knowledge and skills
    * Marine Law (3)
    * Policy Analysis (3)
    * Economics (3-4)
    * National and International Policy Processes (3)
    * Marine Science (3)
    * Research Methods (3 for professional track; 6 for thesis track)

  * First year advising (2)

**B. Electives** Students must take at least the number required to bring the total number of credits to 59. Typically this means about 20-30 credits for the professional track students and 12 credits for thesis-track students. Advising course SMEA 600B does not satisfy the elective requirement.

**C. Capstone/Thesis**

  * Capstone Project and Presentation 9 credits (required for capstone professional track students)

  * Thesis and Thesis Presentation 15 credits (required for thesis track students)

Note: Any extra credits used to fulfill the Core Curriculum will count towards elective credits, reducing the number of elective credits required. In any case, the total credits to graduate must be at least 59.

Details of course requirements are discussed in Section III.
II. Progress towards the M.M.A. Degree

The first year of study is devoted to developing a comprehensive understanding of marine and environmental affairs including how the HDGCME constructs apply to the field, as well as strengthening analytical skills, demonstrated by making substantial progress toward the completion of the core course requirements and electives. For professional track students this includes selection of the capstone project or development of a plan for additional course work by the end of spring quarter. For thesis-track students this includes identification of the thesis chair and development of the thesis prospectus by the end of spring quarter.

During the second year of study, students are expected to develop competence in a particular aspect of marine and environmental affairs through additional course work, seminars, and the preparation of the thesis or the capstone project.

Advising and expected timeline for completion of the requirements

SMEA faculty advise students throughout their studies to build an exciting and rigorous course of study and to ensure progress towards completion of the degree.

During the first year of the study, the assigned first year faculty advisor assists students in course selection, in selection of a capstone project, or in preparation of the plan for additional course work (professional track students), and in exploration of potential thesis topics and identification of a potential thesis advisor (thesis-track students). Faculty are expected to meet with their advisees on a regular basis. It is the shared responsibility of students and advisors to ensure that regular meetings are held and that the advising needs of the students are met. Advising in the first quarter of the program is intended to orient students to the SMEA program. The primary purpose of winter quarter is exploration of potential thesis or capstone projects or development of the plan for additional course work.

Students are required to register for one credit of advising (SMEA 600B) during each of winter and spring quarters of their first academic year. One independent study credit is consistent with an expectation that students will engage in three hours per week of work in relation to this requirement, including meeting with their faculty advisors an average of one hour/week during each quarter for which they are so registered.

While most students will register for SMEA 600B with their first year advisor, thesis students may register for spring quarter with their second year advisor, if she/he is already determined.

Policies to guide course selection and class advising:

1) Student and faculty develop a course plan for the year in the beginning of the fall quarter. This plan is outlined in a form and approved by the faculty advisor (with the understanding that course availability and academic priorities appropriately change as a student’s interests and thesis priorities change). This plan reflects SMEA course requirements, thesis needs, professional development, course availability, and student interest.

2) Student and faculty review (and if needed revise) the above plan every quarter in light of thesis research needs and/or changes in course offerings.

Professional track students should have selected and submitted their capstone project proposal by the end of spring quarter of their first year. Note that students completing their degree with additional
coursework must submit their approved plan for additional course work by the end of winter quarter in their first year. The plan for additional course work must be approved by the faculty advisor and SMEA director. Further, students must select a second year advisor who guides and oversees their general progress and final products that creates a record of their course of study that is directed toward attainment of their degree while at SMEA. Students selecting a capstone project will most likely sign up for second year advising with the faculty affiliated with the capstone project. Students completing their requirements with additional coursework may want to continue working with their first year advisors in the second year as well.

Similarly, thesis-track students should have identified their thesis topics and thesis committee chair and filed a thesis prospectus by the end of the spring quarter. Students are encouraged to engage early with faculty whose work interests them to identify a faculty who will serve as their second year advisor and thesis committee chair. Once an agreement has been reached between the faculty and the student, the faculty will serve as the second year advisor and assist the student in further planning her/his academic program, developing a thesis research strategy, and selecting additional thesis committee member(s). These decisions culminate in the Thesis Prospectus, which is prepared by the student, signed by the faculty advisor, and filed with the Graduate Program Advisor (GPA). A faculty formally becomes the Thesis Committee Chair when they sign the thesis committee nomination form and the thesis prospectus is signed and filed with the Graduate Program Advisor. Thesis advising over the summer quarter is negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Most faculty members are not paid for academic work over the summer and their ability to work with students may be limited by other commitments they have made.

If a student has not selected the track and the second year advisor by the 8th week of the spring quarter in the first year, the student will be required to meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator before the end of the spring quarter and finalize the plan for degree completion.

Satisfactory Progress

"Satisfactory progress" refers to a student's ability to meet the academic standards set by the University of Washington Graduate School and the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs. In particular, students are required to maintain a quarterly and cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (B). Students falling below this minimum will be notified by the Graduate Program Coordinator, and, if necessary, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss corrective action. Course grades below 2.7 will not count toward graduation.

- **Full-time status.** Some graduate funding sources, for example RA- and TA-ships, require full-time status, which typically is defined as 10 credits during the academic year and 3 credits during summer quarter.

- **Length of Studies.** M.M.A. requirements normally are completed in six or seven academic quarters. (Summer quarter attendance is optional.) The Graduate School requires completion of the degree within 6 years and 1 quarter from the time the student begins the program.

- **On-Leave Status.** To maintain graduate student status, all students must register for credits each quarter (except summer), or go on leave. Students must apply for ‘On Leave Status’, have it approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator, and pay the required fee. This must be
2015 MMA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

renewed each quarter. If you fail to either sign up for credits, or go on leave, you will have to reapply to the Graduate School for admission, and pay an additional fee.

- **Incomplete Grades.** Students must have completed the required 59 credits at graduation. If any of the required courses have an "Incomplete" grade, a contingency will be placed on granting the degree. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved in writing by the Thesis Committee Chair and the Graduate Program Coordinator.

**General SMEA Policy on C/NC**

The SMEA policy regarding the C/NC option specifies that all core and elective courses be taken for a grade. Exceptions to this policy are decided by the Graduate Program Coordinator on a case by case basis (e.g., the course is offered only on a C/NC basis). Approval to substitute the C/NC option for a grade must be obtained in writing from the GPC at the beginning of the quarter in which the course is offered. Approval will not be granted after the course is completed.

SMEA 550 (Special Topics) may be offered as C/NC at the discretion of the instructor. SMEA 570 (Thesis Presentation) and SMEA 571 (Non-thesis Capstone), SMEA 600B, and SMEA 700 are exceptions to this requirement and may be taken for C/NC. For courses outside of SMEA, students must obtain permission from the Graduate Program Coordinator to take a CR/NC before the start of the quarter in order to count these credits toward graduation. This document must be in the student’s file.

**Procedures for Academic Dispute Resolution**

The following options are available to students in the event of academic disputes: 1) Talk with the professor or TA involved (this is the first and most appropriate step); 2) Talk with the appropriate advisor or supervisory committee chair; 3) Consult with the GPC; 4) Talk with the SMEA Ombudsman; 5) Talk to the Director. In cases where the student feels it is necessary to go beyond SMEA, contact the University Ombudsman.

**III. Master of Marine Affairs Degree Requirements**

Conferral of the M.M.A. degree depends upon meeting the standards of academic performance established by the University of Washington Graduate School and upon satisfactory completion of the Master of Marine Affairs Degree Requirements. Course descriptions and required prerequisites for the courses may be found in the University of Washington General Catalog (http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/smea.html).

Note: Students are responsible for assuring that courses offered outside SMEA meet the intent of the SMEA requirement. Course instructors and content often change, frequently at the last minute, but course numbers and course titles remain the same. Consult the GPC to determine if a course still meets the goals of the SMEA requirement.

**A. The Core Curriculum**

Core requirements fall in three categories:

1. The Introductory Sequence – SMEA 500, 501, 502, is taken as a sequence in the first year of the program (unless waived by GPC).
1. **Introduction to The Human Dimensions of Global Change, SMEA 500 (3 credits)**

   This course, required for first-year students, introduces students to concepts that form the basis of the SMEA curriculum, including coupled social-ecological systems, resilience in social-ecological systems, human stressors and drivers of change in marine systems, and environmental and institutional responses to change. The accompanying lecture series introduces students to marine affairs problems, opportunities, actors and organizations with emphasis on the PNW.

2. **Integrated Marine Affairs Practice, SMEA 501 (3 credits)**

   This course, required for first-year students, presents approaches and tools for framing analyzing marine affairs problems from the human dimensions and coupled-systems perspectives implied by the HDGCME framework.

3. **Decision Making and Action Taking in Marine Affairs, SMEA 502 (3 credits)**

   This course, required for first-year students, focuses on decision-making, action taking, implementation, evaluation and adjustment in response to problems that emerge within the HDGCME framework.

II. Core Areas of Knowledge and Skills

4. **Marine Law (3 credits)**

   The law requirement is designed to give students exposure to a body of legal principles developed through treaties, statutes, and/or judicial and administrative decisions affecting a specific marine affairs topic. International Law of the Sea introduces students to the norms, rules, and procedures operative in the world ocean regime. U. S. Ocean and Coastal Law, constrained to a significant extent by the International Law of the Sea, provides the basis for most of the policies that are applied within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and the coastal zone.

   - The marine law course that meet the Law requirement are:
     - SMEA 506 (Law B 561) International Law of the Sea (3 Credits)
     - SMEA 515 (Law B 565) U. S. Coastal and Ocean Law (3-5 Credits)

   Note that SMEA 476, *Introduction to Environmental Law and Process*, meets the recommended social science data collection and analysis elective requirement, but not the marine law requirement.
5. **Policy Analysis (3 credits)**

The purpose of this requirement is for students to be exposed to the various theories and tools of policy analysis (e.g., cost/benefit analysis, feasibility study, forecasting) and how those tools are applied by practitioners.

The course that meets this requirement is:

SMEA 519. Marine Policy Analysis (3 Credits)

6. **Economics Requirement (3 credits)**

The SMEA economics requirement assures that SMEA students understand the basics of microeconomics in application to marine policy. SMEA students may satisfy their economics requirement in two ways.

FISH 561. Resource Economics for Management & Policy (4 credits)
This class is taught in SAFS, Autumn 2015.

SMEA 530. Development & the Environment (3 credits). This class is typically offered every other year, depending on faculty availability.

7. **National and International Policy Processes (3 credits)**

The Policy Processes requirement provides students with an understanding of the dynamics that drive policy formulation and policy implementation at various levels. An explicit analytical approach is used to study the how, why, and what of policy processes at the state, national, or international level. A focus on environmental/natural resources policy is desirable but not obligatory. Any of the following courses fulfills the requirement:

SMEA 507. International Organizations and Ocean Management (3 credits)
SMEA 521. Government Responses to Global Climate Change (3 credits)

8. **Marine Science Requirement (3 credits)**

The objectives of the science requirement are to familiarize SMEA students with the physics, chemistry, and biology of the ocean; with hypothesis-testing approaches as they are used in marine research; and with methods of data collection and analysis for marine research purposes.

The basic science course for SMEA students who do not have a strong undergraduate background in oceanography and marine science is:

SMEA 591. Marine Science in the Coastal Zone (3 Credits)
Students who have completed upper-division marine science courses at the undergraduate may qualify for a waiver from SMEA 591. Contact Prof. Klinger directly for consultation. Students who are waived from SMEA 591 are required to take at least one 400 or 500-level science course. The following is a suggested option:

SMEA 510. Topics in Marine Ecology (3 credits)

9. Research Methods Requirement (3 credits for professional track; 6 credits for thesis track)

The research methods requirements ensure that SMEA graduates are able to apply intermediate level statistics (required). In addition, students are encouraged to take courses in advanced statistics, qualitative research methods, research design, or professional skills.

All students are expected to demonstrate a minimum level of competency with respect to quantitative (statistical) analysis. This level of competency can be met with an upper-division undergraduate course in statistics. The required skill level is equivalent to intermediate statistics, including an understanding of point estimates, confidence intervals and regression equations. Students not meeting this requirement through undergraduate courses prior to admission to SMEA will be required to take one appropriate course in their first or second quarter at SMEA.

Recommended courses include:

Q SCI 381. Intro to Probability and Statistics (5 Credits).


STAT 311. Elements of Statistical Method (5 Credits) (Can be taken as a “distance learning course” or as a regular classroom course)

CSSS/STAT/SOC 321 Case-Based Statistics

Although 300-level courses do not qualify for graduation credits, we will waive 3 credits of the 59-credit SMEA graduation requirement for students completing a 300-level course in statistics.

Students who have completed such a course prior to enrollment in SMEA are encouraged to take more advanced courses in quantitative or qualitative research methods and design. Depending on faculty availability in any given year, SMEA offers a variety of such courses. They include: Interviewing Skills (SMEA 512), Case Study Method (SMEA 581), Research Processes in Forest Resources (SEFS 504). Students are advised to discuss the above options with their faculty advisors.
Many other skills are of value to policy professionals, such as planning, budgeting, mediation and negotiation. SMEA students are encouraged to pursue such professional skills through the electives they take elsewhere on campus.

Thesis-track students have higher requirements in this area given the research focus of the thesis project. They select their methods courses in consultation with the thesis committee chair.

11. Marine Affairs Advising (2 credits)

SMEA 600 B. First year advising (1 each, winter and spring quarters for first-year students)

Waivers for Core Courses

No substitutions are permitted for required courses in the Introductory Sequence (SMEA 500-502). Permission to defer any of these three courses until the second year of study must be approved by the GPC.

In each of the core areas of knowledge, each student must satisfy the graduation requirement by taking one or more courses covering the subject while enrolled in the SMEA. Students with little or no background in a subject area will satisfy the specified requirements with a basic course covering the fundamentals of the subject. Students with a strong academic background in the subject (e.g., significant exposure to the subject as an undergraduate) can fulfill the subject area requirements by taking a more advanced course. For example, a student with little or no marine science background will take the introductory course SMEA 591, while a student with advanced marine science background will choose from a number of more advanced marine science courses.

Waivers for core requirements are possible only if a student can demonstrate substantial prior coursework in a topic area and that additional coursework would be redundant. In special cases, a student with a strong background in a subject area may seek a waiver of that graduation requirement from the Graduate Program Coordinator. For example, a student having a law degree could seek waiver from the law requirement; a student with a degree in biological oceanography may be able to waive the marine science requirement. We distinguish between waiving requirements for specific courses (e.g. SMEA 519 or 591) and waiving the obligation to take courses in a specified category (e.g. Policy Analysis, Economics, Marine Science).

In no case can waivers be used to reduce the total number of credits required for graduation. Requests for waivers are to be submitted to the GPC. These decisions are to be made by the GPC in consultation with the appropriate faculty advisor. Such changes must be recorded in writing by the GPC and placed in the students’ files, along with the necessary transcripts.
B. Electives (21-30 credits for professional track, 12 for thesis track, or the number required to bring total credits to 59)

Elective courses are intended to enhance the student's knowledge of Marine Affairs in areas pertinent to the student's career and research goals. Electives provide the needed depth of understanding in substantive fields of inquiry and in methods of research and analysis. At least 6 credits from 2 courses must be taken from the SMEA curriculum. For the list of SMEA courses, see http://www.washington.edu/students/crs/cat/smea.html. While the same course may not be used to satisfy both elective and core requirements, any SMEA course not used to satisfy a core requirement will qualify for elective credit. Independent Study (up to 8 credits of SMEA 600) may be used to satisfy the elective credit requirements, but NOT the 6 credits of SMEA electives.

Elective credits must qualify as graduate credit (typically 400 or 500-level courses) offered in any UW department or school. Students should consult with their faculty advisors or thesis committee chairs in choosing a set of elective courses. Other 400 or higher level courses offered at the University of Washington will qualify for graduation credit so long as the course is pertinent to the student's area of study. As a general rule, students should discuss the choice of elective courses with their faculty advisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Additional advice on elective course offerings can be sought from faculty advisors, thesis committee chairs, and the Graduate Program Coordinator.

C. Independent Study Courses (SMEA 600 A&B)

Students may use independent study to explore topics within their area of interest and during preliminary thesis research and preparation of the prospectus. To enroll in SMEA 600 students must have faculty approval to register, using the SMEA Independent Study Agreement form. Receipt of credit is contingent on completion of work or projects agreed to by the instructor. No more than 8 Independent Study credits, with the exception of the 2 pre-thesis advising credits, will count towards graduation.

Note that while graduate-level independent study is a flexible category at the University of Washington, expectations and expected products should be clear between faculty supervisors and students before the Independent Study Agreement is signed. Students may receive “I” (incomplete) grades if expectations are not met by the end of quarters during which Independent Study is elected and ultimately loss of the credits if the expected work is not completed. The University’s rule of thumb is that 1 independent study credit equals 3 hours per week of work, though individual faculty may be flexible in their actual requirements.

D. Professional Track

Students in the professional track prepare one of two types of degree projects: a team capstone project or an individual, place-based problem solving exercise or proposal that builds on the additional course work (9 credit hours). Students submit a proposal to the GPC for approval of a capstone project by week 8 in the spring quarter of their first year. They also register for 4 credits of SMEA650 and 5 credits of 651 courses (total of 9 credits). Students are required to give a formal presentation to the
SMEA community in addition to any presentation that the capstone client may require for their community. Approval from the second year advisor is necessary before the presentation can be scheduled.

Students who wish to complete the degree with additional course work must submit a plan (approved by the first year advisor and SMEA director) for additional course work no later than the end of the eighth week of winter quarter of their first year of study. This earlier deadline is required for successful planning of the additional coursework. The plan for additional coursework must specify: 1) the professional objectives to be served, 2) the additional courses (9 credits) to be taken, and the rationale for proceeding in this fashion, i.e. what value is added. This option also requires a formal presentation at the end of the second year applying the skills obtained in the additional coursework. Approval from the second year advisor is necessary before the presentation can be scheduled.

A word of explanation is necessary relative to the requirement for 9 additional credits of study in lieu of a capstone project or thesis. The Graduate School requires that programs for the same degree be very distinct from each other and that there be equity in the requirements of each relative to the other. Equity in the additional course work option vis-à-vis the capstone and thesis requirement lies in the additional advanced courses pertinent to each student’s professional objectives. These courses amount to nine credits.

E. The Thesis and Thesis Presentation (15 credits – for thesis track students)

Conferral of the M.M.A. Degree for students in the thesis track depends upon satisfactory completion of a research project presented in thesis format and prepared under the supervision of a thesis committee.

While doing thesis research the student is required to take 15 credits of SMEA 700.

**SMEA 700. Master's Thesis Research (15 Credits,)**

*Prerequisite: A thesis prospectus must be approved by the student’s thesis committee chair prior to enrollment in SMEA 700. Students may take additional thesis credits, but only 15 SMEA 700 credits will count towards the MMA degree.*

*A student conducting preliminary research and/or developing a prospectus may enroll for SMEA 600 (Independent Study) under the supervision of an SMEA faculty member. SMEA 600 counts towards elective credits*

Students are required to give a formal presentation of their research to the SMEA community. Approval from the chair of the student’s supervisory committee is necessary before the presentation can be scheduled.
1. Thesis Process

The SMEA faculty believes the Master's thesis is a major part of the student's educational experience. An acceptable thesis

- demonstrates independent thought and research,
- contributes to understanding or potential resolution of a problem in marine or environmental affairs, and
- communicates effectively to a relevant audience.

The SMEA thesis is a significant paper communicating the results of research and analysis of a problem or opportunity. Some theses attempt to explain and/or predict phenomena important to marine or environmental affairs (the scientific thesis). Others seek to identify policy issues, adopt an approach to policy development or evaluation, and make recommendations (the policy analysis thesis). Still others provide a detailed description and explanation of a marine or environmental affairs issue, problem, or case study, but do not attempt either to predict or evaluate (the descriptive thesis).

Appropriate models for such a paper appear in peer-reviewed professional journals, and students are encouraged to consult such journals to determine scope, length, and style appropriate to the discipline. Students may choose to produce a thesis that does not conform to the constraints of an academic paper. Such a thesis must meet the same standards of academic excellence as the traditional thesis, and it must involve sufficient documentation to satisfy Graduate School requirements.

Thesis Prospectus

The student's Thesis Committee Chair must approve in advance a prospectus which articulates the topic and form of a thesis project. After choosing a Thesis Committee Chair and a preliminary thesis topic, a student will continue working with the Chair to further define the thesis topic, identify a thesis committee, and prepare a written research prospectus. Credit for preliminary thesis research and preparation of the prospectus can be earned by enrolling with the Thesis Committee Chair for SMEA 600 Independent Study. Credit for thesis research and preparation of the thesis will be earned by enrolling in 15 credits of SMEA 700 Thesis. After the Thesis Committee Chair has approved the prospectus, students may register for thesis credits. Registration must be authorized by the Chair, using SMEA Thesis Credit Approval Form every quarter a student enrolls in SMEA 700. Additionally, approval or exemption by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or the Human Subjects Division (HSD) may be required for students to carry out their research. Students should discuss this possibility with their thesis advisor and consult the following website: [http://www.washington.edu/research/hsd/](http://www.washington.edu/research/hsd/) to determine if a Human Subjects approval or waiver is necessary. If documentation is required students are to complete all of the requisite paperwork and provide a copy of the prospectus and approval to the Graduate Program Advisor upon receipt.

Thesis Supervision

Supervision of the student's thesis preparation is the primary responsibility of a committee composed of a Chair (or Thesis Advisor) and at least one committee member. The Chair and at least one-half of the total membership must be members of the Graduate Faculty. At least one of these committee members must be formally associated with SMEA as a regular, affiliate, adjunct, or research faculty. The Chair will assist students in recruiting members to the committee whose expertise will contribute to the design and execution of the thesis research. All committee members are required to hold an accredited Ph.D. or J.D. to serve on the thesis committee, however in special cases where a potential
member does not hold one of these degrees, but has what the thesis chair deems to be equivalent expertise and experience in a particular subject matter pertaining to the thesis topic, a petition may be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC) for review. The GPC will then determine if the potential member is qualified to serve as either a second or third member of the committee, or not at all. If the petition results in third member approval, another member of the UW Graduate Faculty will need to be added to the committee as a second member in order for the approved third member to serve.

Once the committee members have been established, a committee nomination form must be signed by all members and submitted to the Graduate Program Advisor. The GPA will then submit the names of the student’s committee members to the Graduate School. Any changes made after the initial nomination will require immediate notification to the GPA. The committee will continue to meet with the student as needed until completion of the thesis.

**Thesis Presentation**

A student will present his/her thesis results to the SMEA community during the quarter in which he/she intends to graduate.

**Thesis Submission**

The UW Graduate School requires electronic submission of theses [http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/](http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/). The final approved thesis must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm PST on the last day of the quarter. Guidelines for writing and the submission of the thesis can be found at the following website [http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/info.shtml](http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/info.shtml). Following the thesis submission the signed Supervisory Committee Form should be turned into Graduate Enrollment Management Services (GEMS) Office and the warrant and a copy of the thesis turned into the Graduate Program Advisor for the department.

**IV. Options**

**A. Certificate Programs**

There are a several ‘Graduate Certificate Programs’ on campus that are available to SMEA students. Graduate Certificate programs generally require 17-22 credits, and can be completed by using the SMEA elective credits. There is more information on the Graduate Certificate programs in the SMEA student binders.

**B. Foreign Languages**

There is no foreign language requirement for the M.M.A. degree however, due to the nature of the field and its international aspects, those students having a background in one or more foreign languages will be encouraged to employ them by planning programs of study and research that focus on marine activities and institutions in an appropriate foreign area. In cases where the special interests of students concern specific areas of the world (e.g., the Far East, South America), competence in a foreign language may be essential. The need for a foreign language will be determined by the student's supervisory committee.

Competency in spoken/written English is essential to successful completion of the Program of Studies.
C. Internships

Practical experience can be advantageous to professional development. Independent study credit hours may be earned during an internship assignment by arranging an SMEA 600 independent study project under the supervision of an appropriate faculty member and with written approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator. Additional work beyond the internship itself may be required. Internships should be carefully selected to contribute to the student's research and professional career goals.