

MIT/Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering

The [Joint Program of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution \(WHOI\)](#) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers advanced degrees in oceanography and applied ocean science and engineering. Graduate study encompasses virtually all of the basic sciences as they apply to the marine environment: physics, chemistry, geology, geophysics, and biology. Students who choose applied ocean science and engineering may concentrate in the major fields (aeronautics/astronautics and civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 170 scientists/faculty from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 121 students enrolled in the five areas of study offered: biological, chemical, or physical oceanography; marine geology and geophysics; and oceanographic engineering.

Since all MIT faculty involved in the joint program are members of an academic department, their individual accomplishments and awards are reported through those departments. These include the Departments of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Biology, and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS).

Participation of Aeronautics and Astronautics

In spring 2017, MIT's Committee on Graduate Programs approved a proposal for the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics to participate in the joint program, bringing the number of School of Engineering departments involved in the program to four. This partnership will allow prospective joint program students who are interested in applied physics and engineering the option to apply and matriculate through Course 16 (Aeronautics and Astronautics).

Biological Oceanography Degree in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences

Also in spring 2017, the Committee on Graduate Programs approved a proposal for EAPS to offer biological oceanography as a degree for students in the joint program, joining Civil and Environmental Engineering and Biology in offering this degree.

Doctoral Degrees

The joint program awarded 34 doctoral degrees in 2016–2017. Dr. James Yoder, the vice president for academic programs and dean of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, conferred the hoods on June 9, 2017, for participating MIT students. A celebration for the graduates was hosted at WHOI on June 8, 2017, and a private luncheon was hosted at MIT following the hooding ceremony.

Edward Boyle

Director

Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences