

Our History: Department of Marine and Environmental Systems

Florida Tech was founded in 1958, and earned SACS accreditation in 1964. *Over 4,600 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been granted by DMES programs on the Melbourne and prior Jensen Beach campuses since our founding in 1966.* Our graduates excel globally in dozens of science, engineering, and management disciplines.

Major steps over 40 years in the integration of diverse arrays of oceanography, engineering, environmental science, meteorology, and management include:

- In 1966, the Department of Oceanography at Florida Tech was launched with an undergraduate program in physical oceanography.
- In 1968 the university established the Hydrospace Technical Institute, HTI, located at Cocoa Beach, which later was moved to Jensen Beach and the name changed to the School of Marine and Environmental Technology, SOMET.
- Biological and Chemical Oceanography curricula were added in 1971.
- The Ocean Engineering program began in 1972 when the department became the Department of Oceanography and Ocean Engineering; in 1979 Ocean Engineering became ABET accredited.
- SOMET's faculty, students, and programs were moved to Melbourne when the Jensen Beach Campus was closed in 1986. Environmental Science was added *ca.* 1976.
- In 1990 the program in Environmental Science was transferred to the department, at which time it was organized into the Dept. of Oceanography, Ocean Engineering, and Environmental Science.
- In 1993, the department became the Division of Marine and Environmental Systems (DMES), one of four divisions in the reorganized College of Engineering.
- An additional baccalaureate curriculum in Marine Environmental Studies, 1994.
- Meteorology became part of the division's undergraduate offerings in 1995.
- In 2000, DMES was renamed the College of Engineering's Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, and in 2001 an undergraduate specialty in Coastal Zone Management was added to the Oceanography curriculum.

Graduate degree programs were often established in parallel with the undergraduate curricula.

- a Master of Science degree in Physical Oceanography was the only graduate program in the late 1960's.
- Masters in Biological, Chemical, and Geological Oceanography were added in 1971, 1976, and 1980, respectively.
- An M.S. program in Environmental Science was initiated in 1976, Ocean Engineering was established by 1977, Coastal Zone Management by 1978, Environmental Resource Management in 1993, Meteorology in 1999, and Earth Remote Sensing in 2007.
- Doctor of Philosophy degree programs started with Oceanography in 1974, Ocean Engineering in 1987, and Environmental Science in 1990.

Recent capital campaigns have resulted in more than \$3,000,000 in permanent endowments for DMES.

Income from these endowments fund the Doherty Visiting Professor, the Link Fellowships, the Snowdon Fellowships, the Skelly Fellowships, the Clayton Fellowships, the SOBAC Fellowships, and the Waters Fellowships – the latter largely underwritten by alumni, faculty, and friends of the department.