

Shipwrecks and Students: Discovering Maritime Heritage

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Abstract

Graduate students from across the United State and abroad come each year to begin their studies at East Carolina University at the MA and PhD level. Most of them are drawn to the Program by the opportunity to do underwater research using scuba and other systems. The Program conducts an extensive array of field experiences. This includes a summer field school for first year students, that follows the completion of a AAUS scientific diver training program offered by the Office of Diving and Boating Safety. These field schools are held in a variety of locations ranging from North Carolina to the Great Lakes and the US Virgin Islands.

The MA degree is offered in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology. This two-year program began in 1981 and has produced graduates in the role of responsible positions in the maritime field throughout the United States and abroad. Many are employed in federal and state government, maritime museums, by contract archaeology firms and teaching. Doctoral students in the Coastal Resources Management Program concentrate in one of the four major areas of ecology, geosciences, social sciences and maritime studies, while completing secondary fields in two of the remaining three areas. These students may be involved in diving and underwater research but have a focus on cultural resources management.

This presentation will discuss the resources necessary to maintain the program and illustrate the opportunities in underwater research.