



Ohio Coastal Management Program Notice of Graduate Fellowship Opportunity

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Coastal Management is accepting applications for a graduate fellowship through the Ohio Coastal Management Program (OCMP).

The OCMP is a state-federal partnership program based in Sandusky that manages coastal resources along Ohio's 312-mile Lake Erie coast. The program focuses on resource management and protection while balancing economic, cultural, and environmental interests. It is one of 34 State coastal management programs nationwide and received federal approval by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1997.

This fellowship will be for the 2022-23 academic school year with specific start and end dates based on the fellow's academic program needs and other factors. Students, regardless of citizenship, who are enrolled or who have received an acceptance letter from a graduate degree-granting program or professional program at an accredited U.S. institution of higher education are eligible to apply for a fellowship.

The fellow will be required to attend on-site meetings and work sessions at the Office of Coastal Management headquarters in Sandusky, Ohio at various times throughout the duration of the fellowship.

Fellowship Objective:

The objective of this fellowship is to develop a comprehensive Coastal Geospatial Database using ArcGIS. The geodatabase will link information on shoreline type, existing shoreline conditions, shore structures (type, condition, age, and effectiveness), and shoreline vegetation with innovative research efforts related to sand resources, nearshore substrates, habitat distribution, and coastal recession/risk assessment. The geodatabase will be used by OCMP staff as a tool to manage coastal resources more effectively and to better implement policies and strategies regarding nearshore habitat restoration and coastal resiliency planning.

Applicants must demonstrate knowledge in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management in addition to one of the following Great Lakes focus areas:

- Coastal ecosystems and habitat
- Coastal engineering
- Coastal geology
- Environmental science

The student selected for the fellowship will have the opportunity to:

- Work with ArcGIS software and develop an integrated Master Coastal Geospatial Database.
- Work with Office of Coastal Management staff, who will provide mentorship to the fellow.
- Present their work to OCMP staff, stakeholders, and the public.

Application and Submission Information

Applications must include:

1. Signed letter of recommendation from the student's major professor.

2. A personal education and career statement emphasizing the applicant's ability and what the applicant expects to gain from the fellowship experience in the way of career development (1,000 words or less).
3. Description of how the fellowship budget will be used (see budget section on allowable costs).
4. Professional and academic curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages).
5. Clear, scanned copy of all official undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.
6. Listing of classes and/or plans for the 2022-23 academic school year (not to exceed one page).

Submission Date

Applicants must submit materials to coastal@dnr.ohio.gov by **April 15, 2022**. Applications received after the April 15, 2022 deadline will not be considered.

Budget

The maximum amount of funding available for the fellowship is \$55,000 and must be expended between August 15, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Funds can be used to cover indirect costs, student tuition, stipend, limited fellowship-related travel, minor equipment, and supplies. All funds will be administered through the fellow's academic institution through a cooperative agreement with the ODNR Office of Coastal Management.

Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria – The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

1. Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of student (70% total):
 - a. Quality of the applicant's personal education and career goal statement (15%),
 - b. Strength of academic performance (15%),
 - c. Coursework or experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management (25%), and
 - d. Interest and relevant experience in one on the Great Lakes focus areas mentioned in the introduction of this announcement (15%).
2. Recommendations and/or endorsements of student (15% total):
 - a. Content of the letter from the applicant's major professor.
3. Additional non-academic experience (15% total) including:
 - a. Diversity of education,
 - b. Extra-curricular activities,
 - c. Honors and awards,
 - d. Interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills.

Review and Selection Process

Complete application packets will be reviewed by the Office of Coastal Management with respect to the evaluation criteria listed in the previous section, and one applicant will be selected for the fellowship. The selected candidate will be notified via email of their acceptance into the fellowship program.

Additional Information

Questions regarding this fellowship can be submitted via email to Steve Holland, Coastal Programs Administrator, at steve.holland@dnr.ohio.gov. Additional information about the Office of Coastal Management can be found by clicking [here](#).

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