

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees 

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Oceanographic Science and Technology

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Graduate Certificate in Oceanographic Science and Technology in The Graduate School.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approves the closure of the Graduate Certificate in Oceanographic Science and Technology in The Graduate School.”

BACKGROUND:

The Graduate Certificate in Oceanographic Science and Technology was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2022. It was developed to support the education and training of engineers and environmental scientists engaging in the growing fields of marine technology, ocean engineering, and marine renewable energy and was intended to address immediate needs of industry partners for workforce education. The interdisciplinary curriculum for the online certificate combined courses in Marine Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical & Computer Engineering. These courses build competency in ocean fluid dynamics, oceanographic data analysis, underwater acoustics, and underwater sensing systems analysis and design. At the time of approval, it was anticipated that 10-15 students would enroll within the first few years the program was offered.

However, the program has only ever enrolled a single student, and no students have completed the program. Leadership in the College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have mutually agreed to close the program due to lack of demand. No teach-out plan is required for the program as there are no students currently enrolled. The program will be removed from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education inventory of academic programs after the current academic year.