



ABOUT LUMCON

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), located in Cocodrie, LA, was formed in 1979 to coordinate and stimulate Louisiana's activities in marine research and education and is situated within a dynamic coastal habitat that inspires a myriad of research questions along a freshwater to saltwater continuum. Participants in the REU program will have the opportunity to examine the impacts of environmental changes on a diversity of ecosystems first hand as a result of LUMCON's unique location: in the upper end of one of Louisiana's larger estuaries (Terrebonne-Timbalier Bay), in the heart of coastal Louisiana's expansive marshlands, close to and between two major rivers (the Mississippi and Atchafalaya) that dictate the coastal ecosystems morphology, processes and functions, north of a productive coastal ocean, and close to the remainder of the Gulf of Mexico (as the ship steams) including its deepest parts. The LUMCON Marine Center houses state-of-the-art oceanographic instrumentation and analytical facilities, a fleet of coastal and oceanographic research vessels, the leading marine science library in Louisiana, and sits within an ongoing evolution of coastal habitats, a new delta and a degrading delta, large areas of coastal erosion and wetland degradation, a hurricane-impacted landscape, opportunities and challenges for coastal restoration and flood control, a changing coastal ocean ecosystem, abundant living resources, a fishing/transportation/oil and gas production nexus, and a unique social and cultural milieu.

LUMCON faculty and their research teams focus on a variety of related research themes across these diverse habitats, including river/ocean interactions, coastal productivity, delta formation and degradation, human and environmental impacts (including the immediate and long-term impacts of the recent Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill), and organismal ecology. LUMCON's setting combined with expertise of the faculty and mentor pool provide a unique opportunity for REU students to participate in a scientific research and professional mentoring program that interfaces fundamental research questions in dynamic coastal ecosystems to science-based policy and management activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the program cost? There is no cost to participate in the LUMCON STEM Prep program. All housing and meal expenses are covered by the program. Participants do have to provide their own transportation to and from LUMCON's Marine Center in Cocodrie, LA.

Can I receive credit for this program? Students participating in STEM Prep are eligible to receive four (4) academic credits from The University of Louisiana @ Lafayette which can be transferred to their home institutions. Program participants may be interested in exploring this possibility with their advisor.

Can I participate in the program as a junior or senior? No. This program is specially designed for freshmen and sophomores. This generally means someone that has been enrolled full-time at a college or university for 2 years, or students that have been enrolled part-time for up to 3 years.

I live in the United States however I'm not a US citizen. Can I still apply? Yes, as long as you are a student that is enrolled at a Louisiana college or university and will be going back to a Louisiana college or university the following fall.

If I have already participated in the LUMCON STEM Prep Program can I still apply again? In general, LUMCON has a "no repeat" guideline which means a student who has already participated will not be considered again. There are exceptions to this rule and each decision will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

When might I expect to hear about a fellowship offer from LUMCON and how much time do I have to decide? Applications are usually due in April. We anticipate interviewing candidates in mid-April. After being offered a LUMCON STEM Prep position, you may have up to 5 days to decide whether to accept it. Our program schedule targets late-April for notification to applicants regarding their final status. If you have questions or concerns regarding your status, please contact the program coordinator by emailing education@lumcon.edu.

How do you select areas of interest? Students are encouraged to look at the faculty pages on the LUMCON website to see what is being done in the various research groups before applying. Particular topic areas that may match an applicant's interest should be stated in the statement of interest. If a student does not yet know what their area of interest is their statement of interest should focus on their academic and career goals. This information can be used to help place you in the research group that can best support your current goals.

If I am offered a position and accept, what kind of workload can I expect? Will I have to work weekends? You are expected to work at least 40 hours/week. You will be spending the summer at a marine lab where the atmosphere is serious but relaxed, where scientists work hard but enjoy flexible schedules. For example, some days you may be expected to work long hours in the field, assisting with running a particular laboratory experiment, or other tasks. Alternatively, other days you may be in a workshop or out on a field trip with the other STEM Prep program students. You are expected to be reasonably responsible for your own time, meeting the minimum 40 hour/week requirement, while setting a schedule that is compatible with the lab you are working in and other program activities.

FAQs CONTINUED

Will I see other students during the summer? All STEM Prep students will live in residence at LUMCON and participate in orientation activities as well as workshops and other program activities together. STEM Prep students will also have the opportunity to interact with other undergraduate and graduate students, scientists, and K-12 students that are part of the LUMCON Summer Program.

What if I want to accept a position but my school is on the quarter system and I'm not able to come to LUMCON until after the program starts. Can I still participate in the program and miss the orientation and first week of the program? Sometimes students are able to work out arrangements with their professors to take exams early, or to take them while they are LUMCON. There is, however, a tight schedule. Students are expected to be at LUMCON for the entire six weeks of the program. Details should be discussed with the program coordinator, Murt Conover (education@lumcon.edu) before you accept.

- **Where will we live?** Participants live in dormitories on site at the LUMCON DeFelice Marine Center. LUMCON has two dormitory wings (traditionally grouped by gender). In each wing, eight 2-4 bunk rooms with two desks and closets accommodate overnight and long-term visitors. Every two adjacent rooms share a Jack-and-Jill style bathroom. There is also a common area for visitors, the student lounge, which is equipped with a refrigerator/freezer, stove, cooking utensils and television. For recreation, visitors can play basketball, volleyball, and even go fishing (with a State of LA basic and saltwater fishing license).
- **What about laundry facilities?** LUMCON provides washers and dryers. You'll need to provide your own laundry detergent.
- **Are linens supplied?** The DeFelice Marine Center provides bed linens and towels. The AC can make the rooms cold, so additional blankets/sleeping bags are advised.
- **Where will we eat?** The DeFelice Marine Center has a cafeteria located between the dormitory/apartment and the scientific wings of the building. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be available Monday –Friday and brunch and dinner on the weekends. You are not responsible for covering the costs of food unless you want to have your own supply of food for the in-between meal times.
- **Do I need a car?** You may bring a car, but it is not required as housing is located on site. LUMCON is located in the tiny village of Cocodrie, LA so access to a vehicle may be desirable for making excursions up to Houma (~30 miles) or New Orleans (~80 miles).
- **What is the area near LUMCON like?** LUMCON is located in a coastal saltmarsh that is accessible by driving south on Highway 56. The facility is about a quarter mile from the end of a long a stretch of road in the saltmarsh mainly lined with weekend and summer fishing camps. The nearest grocery store is about 15 miles north of LUMCON. Thirty miles north of LUMCON is Houma, LA, the nearest urban area. There is a movie theater, bowling alleys, putt-putt golf, a Laser tag facility, a shopping mall, and many restaurants. Cocodrie was recently devastated by Hurricane Ida. You should expect things to be a little chaotic as the community make repairs and tries to rebuild.

FAQs CONTINUED

- **Do I need to bring my own computer?** In most situations, it is highly beneficial to students to have their own computers. LUMCON provides Wi-Fi throughout the building including the dormitories. LUMCON also has a several computers available for use and printing in a shared computer lab.



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UNIVERSITY GROUP RULES:

- Wear shoes inside and outside (not necessary in your dorm room). Vessel and field excursions require closed-toe shoes, no exceptions.
- Do not apply insect repellent or spray-on sunscreen indoors. The volatile compounds enter the air exchange system and can damage laboratory cultures.
- There is a security guard on duty all night. They will be patrolling the marine center and grounds through the night. There are security cameras recording video of each hallway in all areas of the marine center (not in the dorm rooms) and the property around the Marine Center.
- You are responsible for the condition of your room and the guest lounge when you leave it. It should be reasonably clean and intact. Please do not move furniture or place mattresses on the floor or balconies. You will be charged if extra cleaning or repairs are required to your room or the student lounge.
- Lost keys result in a \$10 fine.
- Quiet hours are from 10pm to 6am. Please be reasonably quiet in dorms during working hours, or when scientists, graduate students and/or other groups may be sleeping. The only door to the Marine Center that is opened after 6pm is the door between the dorm and cafeteria.
- No one is allowed in the research areas after quiet hours unless you have permission to be there. If you are going to be using research areas after 10pm please notify the security guard of what space(s) you are going to be using.
- Smoking is not allowed anywhere but in designated areas outside the building on the ground level.
- Do not leave equipment or personal items in areas other than your group's designated space. Pickup after yourselves and leave spaces cleaner than you found them.
- No one is allowed to use a kayak without first obtaining permission from the education staff. A float plan must be completed. You must check in with the guard or front desk upon return. No boat should be out after sunset or before sunrise! Fees may apply for each vessel used.
- In the event of a fire, the muster point for all visitors is along the main drive near the front pond.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed outside of your dorm rooms. If your group requires extended privileges, prior consent from the Executive Director must be obtained.
- There is no fishing allowed anywhere but at the back dock. If fishing after 10pm please notify the security guard that you will be out at the dock.
- Do NOT eat any food found in the lounge unless it belongs to you! Food for staff and graduate students is stored there.

Directions to The DeFelice Marine Center

From New Orleans Airport (2 hours)

- Exit the airport and turn right on US 61.
- Travel 3 miles to I-310 South to Houma.
- Drive 9 miles to US 90 West and exit right.
- Drive 24 miles.
- Take **exit 210** to **HOUMA** (LA 182).
- Turn left and drive to the first traffic light to LA 3087.
- Follow LA 3087 through one signal light and across the Intracoastal Canal bridge.
- Go through two signal lights; turn left onto LA 24.
- Continue straight on HWY 24 until HWY 56. HWY 24 turns to the left to Presque Isle, Bourg, and Montegut.
- HWY 56 heads straight and south.
- Continue straight on HWY 56 south to Chauvin and Cocodrie (approximately 18 miles).

From New Orleans and points east (2 hours)

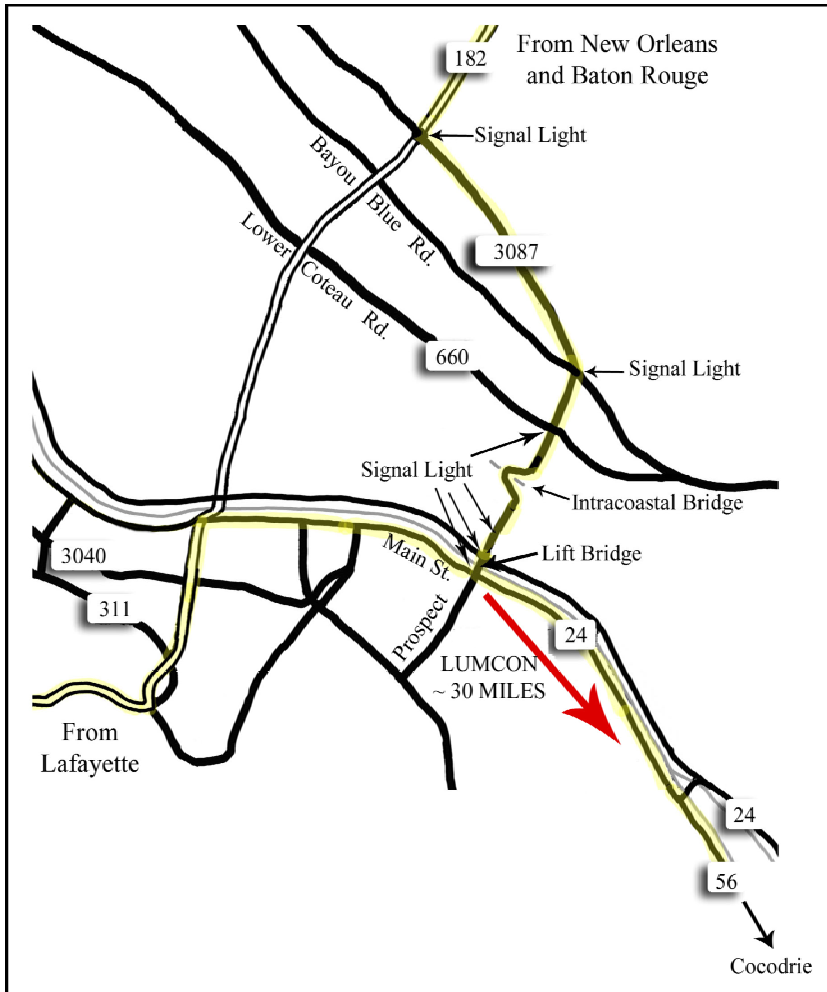
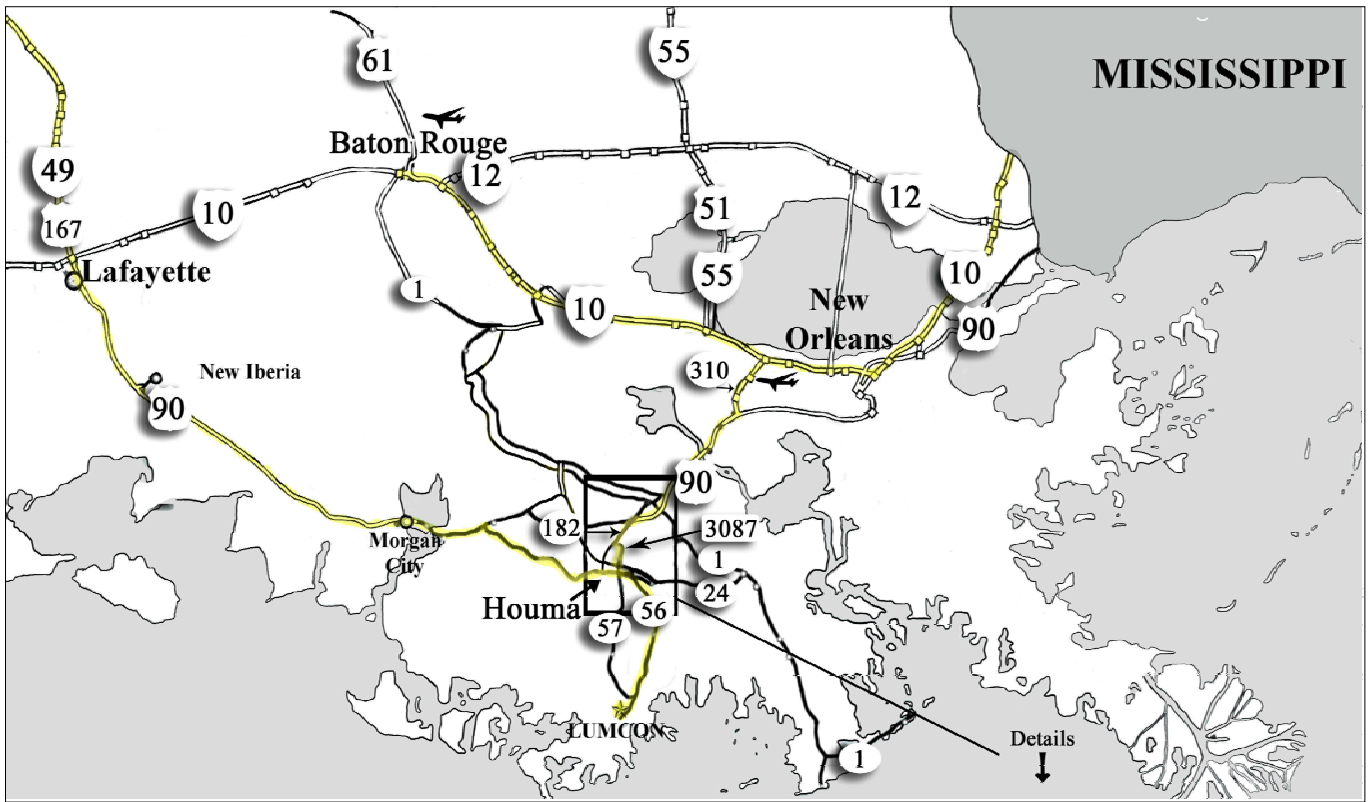
- I-10 to I-310 South to Houma.
- Drive approximately 11 miles to US 90 West and exit right.
- Drive 24 miles.
- Take exit 210 to **HOUMA** (LA 182).
- Turn left and drive to the first traffic light to LA 3087 (this is a new construction four-lane road).
- Follow LA 3087 through one signal light and across the Intracoastal Canal bridge.
- Go through two signal lights; cross the bayou at the third light, turn left onto LA 24.
- Continue straight on HWY 24 until it becomes HWY 56. HWY 24 turns to the left to Presque Isle, Bourg, and Montegut. HWY 56 heads straight and south
- Continue straight on HWY 56 south to Chauvin and Cocodrie (approximately 18 miles).

From Lafayette and points west (3 hours)

- I-10, exit south on HWY 167 to HWY 90 to Morgan City.
- Stay on HWY 90 through Morgan City into Houma.
- Take HOUMA exit (HWY 24).
- Stay on HWY 24 until it becomes HWY 56. HWY 24 turns to the left to Presque Isle, Bourg, and Montegut. HWY 56 heads straight and south.
- Continue straight on HWY 56 south to Chauvin and Cocodrie (approximately 18 miles).

From Baton Rouge and points north (3 hours)

- I-10 to Donaldsonville, Sorrento, and Sunshine Bridge exit to HWY 22.
- Follow to Spur 70 to Napoleonville, Thibodaux.
- Head south on HWY 1 or HWY 308 (both parallel Bayou Lafourche) to Thibodaux.
- In Thibodaux, switch to HWY 24 and follow it into and through Houma.
- Stay on HWY 24 until it intersects with HWY 56. HWY 24 turns left to Presque Isle, Bourg, and Montegut. HWY 56 heads straight and south.
- Continue straight on HWY 56 south to Chauvin and Cocodrie (approximately 18 miles).





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What to bring to LUMCON

... besides interest, enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about Louisiana's coastal environment

Clothing

- Layers appropriate for different temperatures/insect conditions (it may be cold and wet so bring enough clothes so you have something dry to put on)
- Rain gear
- Closed-toe shoes that can get wet and muddy like rubber boots or old sneakers
 - ◆ NO sandals, crocs or flip-flops in the field, please feel free to bring them to wear in the shower or dorms.

Protection

- Long sleeves
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent (Do not apply in the building; it gets into the air exchange system)
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Water Bottle
- Comfort items
- Extra towel (some are provided but you may want extra)
- Blanket (bed linens are provided but bring an extra blanket or sleeping bag it can get cold in the dorm rooms)
- ***LUMCON supplies linens, 2 bath towels, 2 face towels, and 2 light blankets, and a pillow to each guest. Bring extra to make yourself comfortable if you feel the need.***

Toiletries/necessities

- Alarm Clock
- Don't forget your toothbrush or toothpaste; shampoo, soap, etc.
- Whatever prescription and over the counter medications you use

Equipment

- Laptop
- Notebook
- Recreational items (music instruments, cards, smaller workout gear, etc.)