

The Communicating Ocean Sciences Network: Universities, Oceanographic Institutions, Science Centers, Aquariums, and Schools Working Together to Improve Education and Public Outreach Efforts

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Communicating Ocean Sciences College Courses

- introduces new and seasoned scientists to outreach and broader impact strategies
- team-taught by university faculty and a formal or informal educator, introduced to the course via face-to-face or interactive online professional development
- university students gain experience communicating science in K–12 classrooms (COS K–12) or informal science education institutions (COSIA)

Goals:

- introduce university students—the future scientists—to the importance of education, outreach, and the broader impact of ocean sciences research
- improve scientists' ability to communicate scientific concepts and research to their students
- provide both university students and scientists with direct experience using exemplary, research-based instructional materials that model constructivist pedagogy—the idea that people learn by actively interacting with their social and physical environment
- promote thoughtful, mutually beneficial collaborations between scientists and educators as they co-teach the courses
- provide K–12 students from underrepresented populations and visitors to informal science education institutions with significant ocean sciences instruction and university role models



The Communicating Ocean Sciences Network is built around two university science courses, COS K–12 and COSIA, and a professional development program for informal educators.



Reflecting on Practice

- challenges informal educators to be critical and thoughtful about how they engage with the public, through an intensive professional development program
- leaders from informal science education institutions participate in professional development focused on understanding and applying research and theory on learning and teaching science
- leaders implement ongoing professional development at their home institution, building a professional learning community centered on reflective practice

Goals:

- connect informal educators with literature in the learning and teaching field
- engage informal educators in habits of reflection through observing their own teaching
- nurture a tradition of continued professional learning among participants, and build a professional learning community

About the COS Network:

The Communicating Ocean Sciences Network consists of:

- over 25 colleges and universities
- 17 informal science education institutions

Join the COS Network:

COS-RoP.net is an online resource and community for scientists and educators committed to improving their knowledge about and ability to communicate science with the public. Join the network at COS-RoP.net.

