The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) was founded in 1943 by a marine biologist from England, Walton Smith. The campus is located on 16 acres of Virginia Key, an island in Biscayne Bay near Miami. It is the only subtropical applied and basic marine and atmospheric research institute of its kind in the continental United States. The Rosenstiel School has more than 90 Ph.D. faculty members, 150 graduate students and a research support and administrative staff of 250. Master of Science, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees are offered within the six major academic programs that are provided.

Rosenstiel specializes in satellite oceanography, experimental fish hatchery, sedimentary geology, marine geophysics, ocean acoustics, and marine and atmospheric chemistry. The school is also known as one of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences sites for the Marine and Freshwater Biomedical Sciences Center. RSMAS works in close partnership with NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, also located on Virginia Key.