Admissions and Assistantships

Meteorology Graduate Program
Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science
December 3, 2022

Prof. Zhaohua Wu
Graduate Committee Chair
Modern Meteorology & Atmospheric Science

• A branch of study for understanding evolving weather and its predictability, climate and global change, the circulation of the atmosphere relating to weather systems and their impact on the Earth, air quality, and other atmospheric processes that affect us.

• The means of study include but are not limited to collecting data, analyzing data, synthesizing findings and proposing theories, and modeling; and therefore involve high levels of mathematical techniques and physical understanding.
Admission Math Requirements

• Three semesters of calculus (Calculus I, II, III)
  • Limits, differential calculus (in one variable)
  • integral calculus in one variable
  • multivariate calculus, vector calculus.
• Ordinary differential equations
Admission Phys Requirements

- Two semesters of calculus-based physics (Physics I and II with labs)
  - Mechanics (300+ years old)
  - Electromagnetics (150+ years old)
  - Contemporary physics (mostly about 100 years old)

You see, you don’t NEED an undergrad degree in MET/atmos. Just need the math/phys background
Application Deadline: **January 15, 2023**

- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Personal Statement
- Official Transcripts
- Reference Letters
- Other Supplementary or Required Materials
  - Research Papers
  - Proof of Level of English (for Non-native speakers)
  - GRE Score (For Ph.D. Student only)
- Finally, fill out the application form and upload the files
What We Value

• Main evaluation criteria – what we consider
  • Non-Cognitive Competencies
    • Letters of recommendation, statement of interest, and fit within the program
  • Research Potential
    • Quantity/quality of prior research, evidence of interest, and fit
  • Academic Preparation
    • Taken required courses or ability to take required courses/to learn required skills
  • Academic Performance
    • GPA and progression over time

• Additional evaluation criteria (subtle and subjective)
  • Communication skills, Leadership, Willingness to serve others…
We offer funded assistantships:

- **Teaching Assistant:** classroom instruction, lab assistance, grading
  - 12-month ½ TA (some): 20 hours/week (fall, spring, summer)
  - 9-month ½ TA (typical): 20 hours/week (fall, spring)
  - 9-month ¼ TA (some): 10 hours/week (fall, spring)

- **Research Assistant:** working on research project, typically grant-funded
  - Tied to specific professors with funding

*Regardless of type of funding, all students are expected to complete a research project*
M.S. vs. Ph.D.

- With a BS/BA degree
  - Most students enter as MS students.
  - Exceptional candidates can enter Ph.D. program
- With an MS degree in meteorology or a close field
  - Most students enter as Ph.D. students.
- Offer Types
  - MS can get TA or RA offers
  - Ph.D. must have an RA offer from a professor with funding
  - Applying for MS gives more flexibility/a better chance of getting funding
- Switching from MS to PhD
  - Possible, depending on the availability of funding and agreement from a professor
Approximate Timeline

• Jan 16, 2023: application evaluation starts
• ~Feb 15, 2023: the first round of offers is made by the university
• April 15, 2023: the decision (accept or decline) deadline
• Depending on whether students accept offers or other funding emerges, we may or may not have additional rounds of offers later in the spring. In these cases, the decision deadline will be modified accordingly
Frequently Asked Questions

• **Q1**: Do you offer an application fee waiver?
  • The application fee is charged by the Admissions Office. They do not offer a waiver.
• **Q2**: Do I need the support of a faculty member before applying?
  • Communication with faculty is encouraged but not required; may help to secure an RA.
• **Q3**: When I apply for admissions, do I need to submit a separate application for department funding?
  • No.
• **Q4**: Does admission look different for domestic vs international applications?
  • No. Admissions will be rigorous for each applicant.
• **Q5**: Is a GRE required?
  • At the MS level, the university has waived the GRE for a limited time. If you took the exam and wish to report it, you may.
  • At the Ph.D. level, the GRE is required. You may apply for a waiver if you meet specific criteria.
• **Q6**: Do all the MS programs require a thesis?
  • All MET MS students are expected to complete a research project.
  • The default expectation is that all MS students follow the thesis track, but a comprehensive exam track is also available.

• **Q7**: Do all recommendation letters have to be from instructors?
  • No, but strongly encouraged that these letters are from science instructors or research mentors. Additional letters from supervisors are acceptable.

• **Q8**: Will incomplete files be reviewed?
  • No. All applications must be completed by the deadline. We take the full application into consideration.

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