Meteorology/Climatology

The Meteorology/Climatology Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is administered through the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The B.S. degree program in Meteorology/Climatology corresponds to the curriculum jointly recommended by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), and also meets the course work requirements for National Weather Service (NWS) employment.

Careers
You will find many career opportunities in the fields of meteorology and climatology. For example, recent graduates have secured employment as forecasters with the National Weather Service, as radio and television broadcasters, with the armed forces weather service, with private weather consulting firms, in research positions at energy and environmental agencies in both the government and private industry, and as graduate students in academic institutions across the country.

Employers of graduates of this program are always pleased about how well-prepared graduates are for their jobs; the experience obtained from course work and internship opportunities offered by the program is the key to their success. The undergraduate degree also provides an excellent background if you aspire to complete graduate study in Meteorology/Climatology or a related discipline.

The Program
The major in Meteorology/Climatology is designed to help you develop an understanding of the atmosphere and the processes and phenomena that result in various types of weather, the spatial and temporal patterns of weather, and the variability of climate. Part of completing the Meteorology/Climatology degree is developing a strong background in mathematics and physics. Majors in Meteorology/Climatology automatically qualify for a minor in math and many others obtain optional minors in computer science or physics. Students interested in broadcast meteorology can also elect to seek a minor in “Electronic Media” through the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Additional courses in parallel disciplines may be taken to strengthen your program and broaden your employment possibilities. To be eligible for employment with the National Weather Service you must complete a group of required courses; you should always check with an adviser for the latest update of these requirements.

Resources
The Meteorology/Climatology program has a state-of-the-art weather analysis laboratory facility where students get hands-on experience with real-time data. The facility has 15 computer workstations to display and analyze weather data. The system is configured to enable beginning students as well as more advanced students to use the workstations easily. You will be able to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to real-time weather. For example, students often gather in the laboratory during severe weather events to examine current surface and upper-air observations along with; radar and satellite data to determine where the severe weather will take place.

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Activities

Students in the Meteorology Climatology Program have organized a student chapter of the American Meteorological Society, open to all university students, which meets monthly and sponsors field trips, guest speakers, a forecast contest and an annual banquet. In the past, the chapter has taken overnight field trips to the National Severe Storm Laboratory in Norman, Okla., the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., and the NWS River Forecast Center in Minneapolis. The chapter also regularly visits regional NWS forecast offices and local television stations. Students who join the chapter have an excellent chance to meet and interact with their classmates and the faculty on a more personal level.

In addition, the Meteorology/Climatology Major has an extensive program of internships that allows students to gain work experience related to their academic and career interests. Internships may be paid or unpaid. The primary objective, in either case, is to enhance classroom learning and expand a student’s knowledge and skills. A student may also earn academic credit in conjunction with the internship by completing academic assignments under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. In the past, Meteorology/Climatology students have obtained valuable experience as interns at a variety of locations, including federal (e.g., NOAA, NWS) and state facilities, university research labs, private consulting companies, and television and radio stations.

Meteorology/Climatology students also have the opportunity to conduct mentored research under the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences (UCARE) program. UCARE funds undergraduates to incorporate research (or creative activities) into their undergraduate education. Under the mentorship of a faculty member in the Program previous students have used this opportunity to carry-out projects that address meteorological/climatological topics ranging from severe storms to climate change using data from research mobile radars, dynamic models, and climate data sets.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students also have access to hundreds of activities and groups related to specific academic, social or political interests. Involvement in any of these organizations builds leadership, communication and organizational skills and helps you make new friends with those who have similar interests.

Scholarship and Financial Aid

High school seniors who are applying for admission should contact the Office of Admissions regarding application for freshman scholarships and all deadlines. For federal aid, student and parent(s) must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available from your high school guidance counselor. Prospective students are encouraged to look at the American Meteorological Society website to review possible scholarship opportunities for entering freshmen in meteorology/climatology.

Current UNL students should contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to make sure they have applied for all appropriate scholarships and financial aid. In addition, the College of Arts and Sciences administers scholarships. Information about these College scholarships, deadlines, and the College’s Undergraduate Scholarship Application Form is available on the College’s website at http://ascweb.unl.edu/students/scholarships.html.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.