

# METEOROLOGY AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE

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## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The Meteorology and Atmospheric Science program is open to all students with a baccalaureate degree and a strong interest in the atmospheric sciences. A degree in science (including, but not limited to, meteorology or atmospheric science), mathematics, or engineering provides a particularly good background, although the department has had some students with arts and humanities degrees who have done well. The minimum course requirements for admission are mathematics at least through differential equations and at least one year of calculus-based physics. Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) are required for the evaluation of all applicants.

For admission to the program, the departmental admission committee considers courses taken, grade-point average, three letters of recommendation, GRE scores, professional experience, and English proficiency. Rather than setting rigid standards in each category, the committee examines the overall record as a whole. The best-qualified applicants are accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students.

Generally, additional mathematics and physics beyond the minimum requirements listed above, as well as courses in statistics, chemistry, and computer programming, will strengthen the student's application. Courses in meteorology and atmospheric science are not required for admission. Most students admitted to the graduate program have undergraduate grade-point averages of 3.50 or higher. Three recommendations are solicited from persons familiar with the student's academic competence, and the student is required to write a letter summarizing interests and goals. A verbal and quantitative combined GRE score of 315 or greater is typical for the department's students.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

*Note:* All international students required to take the English proficiency test must take the American English Oral Communicative Proficiency Test (AEOCPT) (<http://aplmg.la.psu.edu/programs/about-the-aeocpt/about-the-american-english-oral-communicative-test-aeocpt/>) upon first enrollment. If the student does not meet the minimum score requirements on the AEOCPT, the student must complete additional course work in English in order to be eligible to receive a teaching assistantship.