

What can I do with a Major in METEOROLOGY?

What is Meteorology?

Meteorology is the science of the atmosphere.

What is a Meteorologist?

A person with specialized education who uses scientific principles to explain, understand, observe, or forecast the Earth's atmospheric phenomena and how the atmosphere affects the earth and life on the planet.

Would Meteorology be a good career for me?

Here are some questions you may want to ask yourself if you are considering a career in meteorology:

- Am I curious about the world around me and why it is the way it is?
- Am I challenged by the idea of applying basic scientific principles to understand the behavior of the atmosphere?
- Am I intrigued by the concept of using mathematics as a language to describe things that happen in the world around me?
- Do I enjoy science and math courses?
- Would I like to work with supercomputers, satellites and other sophisticated research tools?
- Am I open to change?

What do Meteorologists do?

1) Weather Forecasting

- National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists apply their skill and experience to produce predictions for their regions and specific towns and cities.
- Private sector forecasts are used by transportation companies, utilities, city managers, aviation professionals, and others.

2) Atmospheric Research

- Atmospheric research seeks to answer questions about our understanding of the atmosphere and how it works and impacts us.
- Research meteorologists work closely with scientists in other disciplines and also work with government officials.

3) Meteorological Technology Development and Support

- Meteorologists work with companies that design, manufacture, and market the instrumentation hardware and software with which atmospheric measurements are made.

4) Information Services

- Information services include acquiring raw meteorological data, creating easily understood displays of critical weather information, and preparing forecast output.

5) Broadcast Meteorology

- Media weathercasting for television, radio, and newspapers is perhaps the highest profile of all careers in meteorology.
- The broadcast meteorologist is responsible for gathering data, creating a forecast, and then developing the graphical representation of their weather analysis for a television broadcast.
- Strong communication skills are essential, and a strong theoretical background in meteorology is a necessity.

Where do Meteorologists work?

U.S. Government

- Traditionally, the largest employer of meteorologists in this country has been the United States Government.
- Many work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which includes the National Weather Service.
- Some are on active duty with the military services

Private Companies

- There are increasing employment opportunities for meteorologists in industry, private consulting firms, and research organizations.

Universities

- University meteorologists teach and work in atmospheric research programs, typically supported by government or foundation grants.

Area Colleges & Universities with a major in Meteorology

- St. Cloud State University
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Iowa State University
- University of North Dakota
- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

For More Information

Contact ARCC Career Counseling: (763) 433-1240 (CR campus), (763) 433-1840 (Cambridge campus) or stop by the campus Information Desk