



AOSC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

UMD / CMNS / AOSC



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Graduate School Requirements: M.S. & Ph.D.



THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Minimum Grade Point Average: 3.0 GPA
- Full Time Enrollment for Graduate Student (48 units)
 - Full-time Graduate Assistants register for 24 units of research or coursework
 - Half-time Graduate Assistants register for 36 units of research or coursework
- Application for Graduation
- Continuous Registration Requirement: Fall/Spring
- Registration Required in Final Semester: Fall/Spring/Summer
- GAs must now also work with advisors to submit a [Statement of Mutual Expectations](#)



Master of Science (M.S.) Non-Thesis



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Graduate School Requirements

- Credit Requirement: 30 credit hours completed at the 600 level.
- Transfer of Credits: Up to 6 credits from another institution can be transferred upon approval.
- Approved Program Form: Final form that confirms you have successfully completed all graduate school and program requirements.
- M.S. Students who plan to enroll in the Ph.D. program must apply through the Grad School.

***All forms must pass by Tammy for internal bookkeeping!**

Academic Program Requirements

- 27 credits of coursework: primarily 600-level.
- 3 credits of AOSC 798 M.S. Non-Thesis Research.
- Scholarly Paper: The Scholarly Paper is a research paper that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct original research and is the final step to M.S. degree completion.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)



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Graduate School Requirements

- Advancement to Candidacy: Submit an application for approval after meeting program requirements.
- Dissertation Research: 12 credits of AOSC 899 under advisor's section.
- Dissertation: Schedule, announce and present a public presentation and take oral exam.
 - Committee Form: Nomination of Dissertation Committee
 - Report: Official report for all committee members to approve
 - Submit: Upload dissertation to the University for publication.

Academic Program Requirements

- Coursework: 30 credits of 600 level coursework is required, some exclusions apply.
- Comprehensive Exam: Students will have 2 attempts to pass the exam.
- Publish scientific findings in peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Attend peer dissertation defense/presentations.

Academic Program Requirements



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Core Courses

Dynamics of the Atmosphere and Ocean

AOSC 610 Dynamics of the Atmosphere and Ocean I (Fall)

AOSC *611 Dynamics of the Atmosphere and Ocean II (Spring)

Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere

AOSC 620 Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere II (Fall)

AOSC 621 Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere II (Spring)

Climate and Earth System Science

AOSC 680 Introduction to Earth System Science (Fall)

AOSC 617 Climate of the Atmosphere and Oceans (Spring)

Suggested Electives

AOSC *600 Synoptic Meteorology

AOSC 652 Analysis Methods in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science

- Department Seminar: Weekly attendance is required and recorded (1st & 2nd year)
- Student Seminar: Attendance is required and recorded (1st & 2nd year)
- Seminar Presentation: Students present research to peers annually (2nd year for M.S., starting in 3rd year for Ph.D.)
- Annual GOA: Submit an annual Graduate Outcome Assessment (Spring)

Sample Student Schedule: Fall 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00 - 11:30		AOSC620: Phys & Chem		AOSC620: Phys & Chem	
11:30 - 12:00					
12:00 - 12:30	AOSC610: Dynamics		AOSC610: Dynamics		AOSC610: Dynamics
12:30 - 1:00					
1:00 - 1:30					
1:30 - 2:00					
2:00 - 2:30		AOSC680: Earth System Science		AOSC680: Earth System Science	
2:30 - 3:00					
3:00 - 3:30					
3:30 - 4:00		Student Seminar		Department Seminar	
4:00 - 4:30					
4:30 - 5:00					

Graduate School General Graduate Assistant Grievance Guidelines

The Graduate Assistant should first attempt to resolve the difficulty by discussing the situation with his or her faculty advisor/supervisor as expeditiously as possible.

The GA should provide the reasons for complaint and a suggested resolution/remedy.

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, the GA should next discuss the situation with the Chair of the Department.

Either before or after such discussions, the GA may wish to seek advice from another academic advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies of the GA's program, an associate dean of the Graduate School, or the Ombuds Officer for Graduate Students.

The GA is strongly encouraged to consult with the Ombuds Officer early in the informal discussion process, and must consult with the Ombuds Officer before initiating a formal grievance.

Advisor
Grad Program Office
Support Staff

- Talk to your advisor about concerns.
- Contact the Graduate Program Office.
- The admin staff are always here to help.

Graduate Director &
Department Chair

- The Graduate Director/Department Chair will listen to your concerns and make recommendations.

Graduate School
Ombudsperson

- The Ombudsperson is an impartial, independent and confidential resource for graduate students at the University who helps to surface and resolve issues.

Department Administrative Staff Graduate Student Support Services:

Assistant Graduate Program Director:

Tamara Hendershot

Room: 3405 Atlantic Building

Email: tbarksda@umd.edu

Phone: (301) 405-5389

- Course registration permissions, over subscribes, and stamps
- Graduate school deadlines, forms, petitions and policies
- Teaching and research assistant assignment assistance
- Department and university fellowships, award nominations
- Enrollment, general advisement and graduation guidelines
- Scholarly papers, comprehensive exams, candidacy, dissertations

Graduate Program Admin Specialist:

Valerie Bonhomme

Email: yb8nhomm@umd.edu

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- Online profiles and updates
 - General program assistance/support for M.S., Ph.D., and M.P.S. programs
 - Assists in coordinating open house events, admissions, etc.

Program Manager, Operations, and
Academic Support:

Genevieve Cooper

Room: 3417 Atlantic Building

Email: gcooper@umd.edu

- Students ID Cards security activation/building access, key distribution
- Course/directed research schedule, AOSC room reservations, TA sections
- Travel processing assistance, event orders/reservations
- Mesonet support, Assistant to the Dept. Chair
- Department committee assignment support

Department Administrative Staff Graduate Student Support Services:

Proposal & Research Coordinator: Djellza Ramadani Room: 3409 Atlantic Building Email: djellzar@umd.edu	- Purchasing, office and technical supplies - Student name signs orders and poster print approval - Travel approvals (AMS, Open House) - Expense reimbursement approvals - External fellowship proposals
Administrative Director: Catherine LaPadula Room: 3407 Atlantic Building Email: shererj@umd.edu	- Supervise administrative staff - GS overload forms/approvals - GS office assignments/facilities and space management - Student extracurricular funding approvals - GS payroll appointment and funding oversight
Benefits & Payroll Coordinator: Bernadette Gatewood Room: 3411 Atlantic Building Email: gatewood@umd.edu	- All payroll related inquiries - Health benefits information - NRA forms and tax documents - Fellowship financial processing - Assistantship adjustments and termination
Mesonet Manager James Hyde Email: jthyde@umd.edu	- Oversees the Mesonet Program - Works with Mesonet graduate research assistants - Initiates the National Weather Forecasting Contest



Administrative Faculty Resources:

Department Chair: Sumant Nigam Room: 3413 Atlantic Bldg. Email: nigam@umd.edu	Director of Graduate Studies: Jonathan Poterjoy Room: 3425 Atlantic Bldg. Email: poterjoy@umd.edu	Admissions Chair: Jacob Wenegrat Room: 3423 Atlantic Bldg. Email: wenegrat@umd.edu
Professional Studies Director & Associate Director, ESSIC: Timothy Canty Room: 3419 Atlantic Bldg. Email: tcanty@umd.edu TA Supervisor/GS MetoGrad Rep	Director of Undergraduate Studies: Alexandra Jones Room: 3431 Atlantic Bldg. Email: aljones4@umd.edu TA Supervisor	Sr. IT Systems Administrator: Jeffrey Henrikson Room: 2427 Atlantic Bldg. Email: jhenriks@umd.edu TA Supervisor
Exams Chair: Xin-Zhong Liang Room: ESSIC Email: xliang@umd.edu	IT Systems Administrator: Walt Tribett Room: 3435 Atlantic Bldg. Email: tribett@umd.edu	State Climatologist: Alfredo-Ruiz Barradas Room: 3437 Atlantic Bldg. Email: aruizb@umd.edu

Annual Dept. Awards



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Green Fund: To recognize a graduate student who has made significant research progress.

Eugene Rasmusson Fellowship: To recognize an outstanding Ph.D. candidate.

Ferd Baer Award: To recognize an outstanding teaching assistant and/or graduate student mentor.

H.E. Landsberg Fund: To recognize the outstanding efforts of the AOSC Students

Best Student Seminar: Outstanding *Student Seminar* and Service to the Grad Program

Zhanqing Li Prize Fund: Outstanding Dissertation and *Peer Reviewed Publication*

AOSC Graduate Students are recognized by the Department,
College, Graduate School, and beyond
for academic excellence, leadership initiatives, mentorship &
outreach efforts, effective teaching and research innovation.



UNIVERSITY OF
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AOSC Graduate Program Office

3405 Atlantic Building . College Park . MD . 20742

301.405.5389 / aosc-apply@umd.edu