

CONCURRENT BS/MS IN METEOROLOGY:

Students wishing to pursue concurrent BS and MS degrees in meteorology are required to fill out the necessary forms by February 1 of their junior year. The faculty will review the forms. Students do not need to take the GRE test, but do need to have at least a 3.4 GPA, adequate grades in calculus and physics courses, and evidence of potential to do graduate-level research. Upon acceptance, the student’s undergraduate adviser will meet with the student to discuss research interests, and the student will be directed toward faculty members having expertise in that area to discuss the ability of those faculty to serve as major professor(s).

Students seeking the concurrent degrees will have the BS requirement for 2 credits of Mteor 499 (senior thesis) waived. Instead, students will take 2 credits of Mteor 590 (Special Topics) during spring semester of year 4 to engage in research toward the Master’s thesis, which is required. It is anticipated that it will take a total of 5 years to complete all work needed for the concurrent BS and MS degrees. If students decide during fall semester or spring semester to drop the pursuit of the concurrent MS degree, the 2 credits of Mteor 590 will count instead of Mteor 499 to allow the student to receive the BS degree alone at the end of year 4. This is the only change in the normal BS requirements. Students will end up with 30 credits applied to the MS degree, and as is usual in Meteorology, 18 of the credits will be from structured courses, with 12 or more credits of Mteor 699 taken while the student does research for the Master’s thesis. It is anticipated that these 12 credits of research will come during year 5, and possibly also during summer between year 4 and 5. Students will defend their MS research by the end of year 5.

The graduate program of study will be developed during fall of year 4, which effectively will be much like the first semester of the normal 2 year MS program. The major professor will be assigned shortly after a student is accepted into the concurrent program, either by the end of year 3, or during fall of year 4.

Graduate assistantships will not be guaranteed, but these students will be considered the same as other graduate students, and following policies in the University catalog, are eligible for available for RAs and TAs in their last two years of study.

A sample semester by semester plan is shown below (for years 4 and 5 as nothing would be different from the normal BS plan in earlier years):

Fall Year 4	Spring Year 4	Fall Year 5	Spring Year 5
Mteor 543 (3 cr)	Mteor 417 (3 cr)	Mteor 542 (3 cr)	Mteor or related (3 cr) Grad course
Mteor 411 (3 cr)	Mteor 432 (3 cr)	Mteor 699 (6 cr)	Mteor 699 (9 cr)
Mteor 454 (3 cr)	Mteor Elective (3 cr)	Mteor or related (3 cr) Grad course	
Mteor Elective (3 cr) at 500-level	Mteor Elective (3 cr) at 500-level		
Gen Ed elective (3 cr)	Gen Ed elective (3 cr)		
	Mteor 590 (2 cr)		

Note: The above plan is valid for even years; for odd years, Mteor 543 and 542 would switch places. The Mteor electives at the 500-level during year 4 would be the 6 credits that are double counted. At least 30 credits are applied for the MS (the above sample plan would provide exactly 30 credits, but

students will be encouraged to enroll and earn 699 research credits in the summer between years 4 and 5, which would result in a total exceeding 30 credits).

Students interested in pursuing the concurrent degrees should contact meteorology@iastate.edu.