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Majors and Minor in the Department

The AOS department offers 3 majors: AOS, AOS/Math, and Climate Science. We also offer an AOS minor. Students interested in joining our department should have at least a 2.0 GPA in our preparation courses.

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Major

In this major, students will gain a better understanding of climate change and learn methods of improving climate change prediction models by using theoretical and practical knowledge. Students will earn mainly about the following four topics: climate and weather, air quality, space weather, ocean. From El Nino to the carbon cycle, students will have knowledge on timely and relevant issues today.

Preparation for the Major:

- One of two Chemistry Sequences
  - Chem 14A, 14B
  - Chem 20A, 20B **
- One of two Calculus Sequences
  - Math 3A, 3B, 3C
  - Math 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, 33A, 33B ** *
- One of three Physics Sequences
  - Physics 1A, 1B, 1C **
  - Physics 1AH, 1BH, 1CH
  - Physics 5A, 5B, 5C
- AOS M71 (Preferred) or PIC 10A
- AOS 51, 90

*Strongly suggested by the AOS department.

** Suggested for students who want to pursue graduate school or would like to work for government agencies or the National Weather Service.

Major Requirements:

- Four courses of this list
  - AOS 101, 103, 104, M105, 107, 112
- Three additional UD courses selected in consultation with the undergraduate advisers
- Two UD courses from a list of Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics courses selected in consultation with the undergraduate advisers

AOS 199 (independent research) taken for 4 units may be used to satisfy one upper-division elective. Thesis approval required from faculty advisor and submitted to department SAO.
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences/Math Major

This program is designed to provide rigorous mathematical training with a comprehensive background in topics relevant to atmospheric, oceanic and environmental sciences. The program is intended to provide particularly good preparation for graduate studies in a streamlined course of study.

**Preparation for the Major:**

- One course selected from AOS 1, 2, 3, 5, 51.
- 1 of two Chemistry sequences
  - Chemistry 20A and 20B*
  - Chemistry 14A and 14B
- 1 of two Calculus sequences
  - Math 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, 33A, and 33B*
- 1 of two Physics sequences
  - Physics 1A, 1B, 1C*
  - Honors Physics 1AH, 1BH, and 1CH
- Program in Computing 10A (or AOS M71).

*Students interested in graduate school are strongly recommended to take the physical sciences sequence.

**Major Requirements:**

- Two core courses selected from
  - AOS 101, 103, and 112
- Two AOS elective courses selected from
  - C110, C115, M120, C144, C160, C170, and 180
- Any 2 additional upper-division AOS courses.
- Three math courses selected from
  - MATH 115A, 131A, 134
- Three math courses selected from
  - MATH 115B, 131B, 135, 136, 142, 151A, 151B, 170E, 170S, one of which must be 115B, 131B, 151B, or 170S

One capstone senior projects/thesis course, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences 199, taken for 4 units, is also required. An individual project or thesis to be selected with the assistance of the program advisers and a faculty mentor must be completed. Thesis approval required from faculty adviser and submitted to department SAO.
Climate Science Major

In this major, students will gain the scientific understanding needed to assess climate impacts from both human-induced climate change and natural climate variability. It will also provide understanding of the climate system needed to communicate climate information to decision-makers in the public sector, private sector, and nongovernmental organization.

Preparation for the Major:
- AOS 51
- 1 of two Chemistry sequences
  - Chemistry 20A and 20B*
  - Chemistry 14A and 14B
- 1 of two Calculus sequences
  - Math 3A, 3B, and 3C
  - Math 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, and 33B (32B and 33A recommended)
- 1 of two Physics sequences
  - Physics 1A, 1B, 1C*
  - Honors Physics 1AH, 1BH, and 1CH
  - Physics 5A, 5B, and 5C
- 1 of two Computer Programming courses
  - AOS M71 (preferred)
  - Computing 10A
- Statistics 10, 12, or 13

*Students interested in graduate school are strongly recommended to take the physical sciences sequence.

Major Requirements:
- AOS 101, M105, C110, 112, 145
- Two additional upper division science courses from
  - AOS 103, 104, M106, 107, CM114, M120, 130, 141, C144, 155, C160, 180
- Two upper division Policy and Solutions or Quantitative Courses from a pre-approved list. Some examples are:
  - URBN PL M165, ENVIRON 150, ENVIRON 157, ENVIRON M161, ENVIRON 166, EPSS 101
  - MATH 134, MATH 135, MATH 136, STATS 101A, STATS 102A, STATS 170, STATS M171, STATS C173

Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences 199 (independent research) taken for 4 units may be units to satisfy one upper-division elective. Thesis approval required from faculty adviser and submitted to department student affairs officer.
The Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences minor provides a formal vehicle for students specializing in other science fields to pursue interest in the atmospheric and oceanic environment. It is designed to be flexible, recognizing that many topics in this field cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

**Preparation for the Major:**

- Three courses from this list
  - AOS M100, 101, 102, 103, 104, M105, M106, 107, C110, C115, M120, 130, 135, 141, 145, 150, C160, C170, 180, 199
- Four courses from this list (2 must be UD)
  - AOS 1, 2, 3
  - AOS 186 (Must be taken twice)
  - Chem 103, 110A, 110B, 113A, C113B, 114
  - EPPS 15
  - EE Biol 109, C119A, 122, 123A or 123B, 147, 148
  - Physics 110A, 110B, 112, M112, 131, 132

*Students interested in graduate school are strongly recommended to take the physical sciences sequence.*
Questions about your major?

If you're interested in learning more about your major, please reach out to the department SAO, Denise Lopez.

**AOS Front Office:**
7127 Math Sciences Bldg.

**Student Affairs Officer:**
Denise Lopez

**Contact Information:**
dlopez@atmos.ucla.edu
(310) 825-1954

**Schedule Advising Appointments:**
https://atmos.ucla.edu/advising-appointment-form

Due to COVID-19, AOS is currently working remotely. Advising appointments will take place over Zoom until further notice.