



University of North Carolina Asheville Severe Weather Field Experience Application

ATMS 473

Due: 25 March 2024

Course Description

You've studied the weather. Now experience the weather. As a participant in this course, you will travel to the Great Plains of the United States to forecast and observe severe weather and interact with professional meteorologists as you discover potential career opportunities in meteorology. Operations will be based in Norman, Oklahoma, in the heart of tornado alley and close to the location of the climatological maximum in tornado frequency during mid-May. Norman is the home of the National Weather Center, which houses numerous NOAA and University of Oklahoma weather and climate organizations, including the Storm Prediction Center, the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and a National Weather Service forecast office. Participants will receive a tour of these and other facilities, including private companies and television studios, and will hear prominent speakers discuss career-shaping opportunities and important aspects of severe weather forecasting.

Prior to our departure on 13 May 2024, you will attend an Advanced Skywarn Spotter Training session held at UNC Asheville. At a second meeting shortly before departure, we will review reading materials about forecasting severe weather and discuss the basic principles of supercell formation and forecasting and chasing techniques. You will receive guidelines on what to bring, an itinerary, and a lesson in proper storm chasing etiquette. While on the road, you will participate in daily map discussions and will help to forecast a target area. After each chase day, you will discuss the day's events from a meteorological perspective and keep a journal of your experiences. Upon your return on 24 May 2024, you will write a brief paper analyzing the synoptic environment and the timing, location, and occurrence of storms for a particular case study. This paper will include a discussion of the accuracy of the official forecasts and warning products, how those forecasts compare with your forecast, and a description of your own experience.

Eligibility

Since space is limited, priority will be given to UNC Asheville students majoring in atmospheric sciences who have completed either *Introduction to Meteorology* (ATMS 103) or *Understanding the Atmosphere* (ATMS 113). Applications will be considered from those who do not meet these qualifications only if space remains available. Applications from all class years are encouraged. Final selection of participants is at the sole discretion of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

Cost

The cost of this course will not exceed \$1200 and may be substantially less depending on the total number of participants and support from the UNC Asheville summer school program. If you submit an application, you agree to pay for the cost of the trip if your application is accepted. This cost includes all transportation, hotels, and communications and navigation equipment.



Those accepted to participate in the course will see the actual price of the course in an acceptance letter dated on or before 5 April 2024. Funds are due on 26 April 2024. UNCA tuition and fees are additional. Tuition rates will be announced as soon as they become available. You are responsible for all of your own food. You may bring your own laptop and cameras if you choose.

Instructions

1. Complete the contact and academic information using the form on the following page.
2. Attach your unofficial UNC Asheville transcript. If you are a transfer student, please also include transcripts from previous universities.
3. Provide a list of three professional references (names and contact information).
4. In fewer than one thousand words, write one coherent essay (i.e., no separate sections) that concisely addresses the following:
 - Why do you want to participate in this course?
 - Honestly describe your career aspirations. If you remain uncertain, discuss what options might interest you.
 - What role can you play as a member of our chase team?
 - Describe what makes an effective storm chaser.
5. Place the contact form on the top of your completed application packet and turn it in to Dr. Christopher Godfrey in 253 Rhoades/Robinson Hall by 5:00 p.m. on 25 March 2024.



University of North Carolina Asheville
Department of Atmospheric Sciences

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Contact Information

Name: _____

Address at UNCA: _____

Cellular phone number(s): _____

Are you willing to receive text messages on your phone? Yes No

E-mail address: _____

Permanent address: _____

Daytime phone number(s): _____

Academics

Expected graduation date: _____

Major and concentration: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ GPA in Atmospheric Sciences: _____