

So you want to go to graduate school in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences?
Try to answer for yourself the questions below before we start discussion.

1. Why do you want to go to graduate school? What kind of career do you see yourself doing in 5-years from now? 10 years?

2. What would you do if you didn't go to graduate school? Would you consider working for some time first? Why go now?

3. Do you know if you want to get a M.S., Ph.D. or something else, or are you not sure about the differences? A degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science or another field? Do you know what subfield or specific research topic?

4. Do you know which programs or potential advisors you want? List them here. Have you inquired to programs yet about admission, advisor, and/or funding? Would you rather stay in UW or be elsewhere?

5. How will you fund for graduate school? Have you considered external fellowships? Which ones?

6. Have you made plans to take the GRE, find reference letter writers, start a statement of interest, and note deadlines? Do you have a resume to send to potential advisors?

7. Given that top programs admit and fund the top 10-15% of applicants, how do you stand out amongst the field of B.S. Atmospheric Science, Meteorology, Physics, and Math degree recipients? Why would a program admit you over someone else? Think about unique research experiences.

8. Have you conducted summer or undergrad thesis research or internships? Presented at a conference or published in peer-reviewed journals?