Professional Caliber
Students here are introduced to the tools used by professionals to access satellite, radar and model data from around the world and taught how to view and interpret it.

Real Experience
Access to the local National Weather Service office, the 45th Weather Squadron and the Kennedy Space Center gives our students opportunities for direct industry experience.

Unbeatable Location
Our subtropical locale and proximity to the coast make Florida Tech the perfect place to study thunderstorms, tropical storms and wind-driven waves.

Meteorology and atmospheric science is the study of the Earth’s atmosphere, a component of Earth system science, and a meteorologist is someone who predicts the weather. Meteorology students become proficient in math and physics, build a comprehensive knowledge of meteorology and gain exposure to fields like oceanography, GIS, space science, environmental science, climate science, remote sensing and atmospheric chemistry.

Why Meteorology at Florida Tech?
There are many reasons the meteorology program at Florida Tech stands out among its peers at other institutions. The interdisciplinary program exposes meteorology students to GIS, atmospheric chemistry, hydrology, remote sensing and oceanography. Small classes taught by professors whose teaching is informed by their cutting-edge research makes for a supportive, engaging learning environment in which students are able to effectively pursue their passion. Additionally, our students participate in hands-on opportunities including fieldwork and undergraduate research. Only here can you study a short drive away from a National Weather Service office, the U.S. Air Force launch support team at Patrick Air Force Base, Kennedy Space Center and the Atlantic coast. Plus, the weather here never disappoints.

Your First-Year Experience
A unique and memorable component of each student’s first-year experience in the meteorology program at Florida Tech is the “Whole Earth Course.” This class, which integrates biology, chemistry, physics, geology and mathematics, leads students to experience and understand our planet as a system of interacting processes. Freshman students can enroll in “Weather Briefing,” a course that covers the key aspects of forecasting and current weather.

DID YOU KNOW?
• Alumni include Brian Zachry, ’04, Ph.D., a forecaster/storm surge modeler at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.
• Students may get involved in the Florida Tech Student Chapter and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the American Meteorological Society.
• Melbourne, Fla. is home to a National Weather Service forecast office and just three hours north of the National Hurricane Center.
Meteorology

Meteorologists do more than TV weather reports. They play a vital role in government and private-sector aviation, commodity trading (futures), power companies, renewable energy (solar and wind power), communications, environmental, marine and space enterprises.

What to Expect

Meteorology students may expect small classes and the opportunity to work with faculty and local organizations on weather-related projects. The program’s reputation and proximity to the 45th Weather Squadron, National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center means you can also expect to build valuable industry experience off campus.

Specialized Labs & Resources

Marine and environmental systems laboratories and portable weather stations provide facilities and instrumentation used for beach surveying and the measurement and analysis of water waves. A dedicated meteorology lab gives students access to professional caliber meteorological data streams.

Careers

Florida Tech meteorology alumni work for organizations such as:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)
- NASA’s Short-term Prediction Research and Transition Center (SPoRT)
- U.S. Air Force
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
- Space Science & Engineering Center (SSEC)

Graduate Study

Our graduates are prepared to pursue advanced degrees in atmospheric science and related fields and have gone on to study at:

- Florida State University
- Texas Institute of Technology
- North Carolina State University
- Purdue University
- SUNY–Albany
- UCLA
- University of North Dakota
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Utah

Faculty Research Areas

The department of marine and environmental systems is an integrated group of environmental scientists, oceanographers, ocean engineers and meteorologists who share a keen interest in preserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources. Their research interests are broad and often interrelated. Current research focuses on, for example:

- Tropical cyclone and hurricane wind speed probability validation
- Freshwater-saltwater hydrology
- Wind-driven water levels in the Indian River Lagoon
- Madden-Julian Oscillation
- Data assimilation
- Lightning phenomena, including Terrestrial Gamma Ray Flashes and Gigantic Jets

Scholarships

Every year, faculty assist high-achieving meteorology students in applying for scholarships from the American Meteorological Society.

FITSCAMS

Our student chapter of the American Meteorological Association is active and plans social activities (like bowling!), visits to the National Weather Service in Melbourne and field trips to places like the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Summer Field Projects

In the summer between their junior and senior years, students carry out capstone-like research projects in a wide variety of areas, from thunderstorm development along seabreeze fronts to the effects of coastal buildings, sand dunes and vegetation on wind flow.

Department Contact

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Graduate Study

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