

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

### A Survey of Atmospheric Science Programs: Appendix

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This document is an online appendix to “What Does It Take to Get Into Graduate School? A Survey of Atmospheric Science Programs,” by JOHN W. NIELSEN-GAMMON, LOURDES B. AVILÉS, AND EVERETTE JOSEPH (*Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **90**, 1698–1705) • ©2009 American Meteorological Society • *Corresponding author:* John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University, 3150 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-3150 • E-mail: n-g@tamu.edu • DOI:10.1175/2009BAMS2767.1

#### SURVEY QUESTIONS.

*Section A:* Size and type of program.

1. Over the past 1–3 years, we have received roughly the following annual average number of applicants from

domestic (US or Canada) applicants: \_\_\_\_  
foreign applicants: \_\_\_\_

2. Over the past 1–3 years, we have admitted the following average number of students to graduate school in the atmospheric sciences each year: \_\_\_\_

3. Over the past 1–3 years, for those students admitted each year on average, we have offered the following levels of support

No support for this number of admittees: \_\_\_\_  
Partial support for this number of admittees: \_\_\_\_  
Full support for this number of admittees: \_\_\_\_

4. Over the past 1–3 years, the average number of students that have accepted admission and have enrolled in our graduate school

domestic students: \_\_\_\_  
foreign students: \_\_\_\_

5. Our graduate application pool and evaluation process is, in our opinion:

\_ Highly competitive  
\_ Moderately competitive  
\_ Somewhat competitive  
\_ Not at all competitive

*Section B:* Graduate Admissions Process.

6. The typical GRE scores of our incoming graduate class are (leave blank any GRE parts that are not considered in admissions):

Verbal minimum: \_\_\_\_  
Verbal median: \_\_\_\_  
Verbal maximum: \_\_\_\_  
Math minimum: \_\_\_\_  
Math median: \_\_\_\_  
Math maximum: \_\_\_\_  
Analytic minimum: \_\_\_\_  
Analytic median: \_\_\_\_  
Analytic maximum: \_\_\_\_

7. A GRE score (or combination of scores) that really lets an applicant stand out above the crowd is: \_\_\_\_

8. To be strongly considered for admission, an applicant should have at least the following overall grade point average (maximum 4.0)

- with an undergraduate meteorology degree from a strong program: \_\_\_\_
- with an undergraduate meteorology degree from a lesser program: \_\_\_\_
- with an undergraduate degree in mathematics: \_\_\_\_
- with an undergraduate degree in physics: \_\_\_\_
- with an undergraduate degree in chemistry: \_\_\_\_
- with an undergraduate degree in oceanography, geology, or other Earth sciences: \_\_\_\_
- with a nonscience undergraduate degree: \_\_\_\_
- with math and science courses only: \_\_\_\_

9. The importance of the following considerations to our recruiting and financial support decisions are (check appropriate response using the scale below):

- Extremely Important
- Somewhat Important
- Doesn't Matter

- 
- A strong GRE score
  - Strong letters of recommendation
  - A strong overall grade-point average
  - A strong grade-point average in mathematics and science
  - A good correspondence between interests and faculty research programs
  - Undergraduate research or internship experience
  - Accomplishments with volunteer or student organizations
  - An undergraduate degree in meteorology or atmospheric sciences
  - An undergraduate degree from one of the leading undergraduate programs
  - A strong application essay
  - An undergraduate scholarship, fellowship or other form of competitive award
  - Self-support for graduate school (graduate fellowship, etc.)

10. Except in very unusual cases, just to be admitted to our program students MUST have (select all that are appropriate):

- A reasonably good GRE score
- Reasonably good letters of recommendation
- A reasonably good overall grade point average
- A reasonably good grade point average in mathematics and science
- A reasonably good correspondence between interests and faculty research programs
- Undergraduate research or internship experience
- Accomplishments with volunteer or student organizations
- An undergraduate degree in meteorology or atmospheric sciences
- An undergraduate degree from one of the leading undergraduate programs
- A reasonably good application essay
- An undergraduate scholarship, fellowship or other form of competitive award
- Self-support for graduate school (graduate fellowship, etc.)

11. The number of students admitted each year, on average, that do not satisfy one of the criteria marked in the previous question is: \_\_\_\_

12. If a student submits an application way before the application deadline, the student's chances of being admitted and offered financial support are:

- Improved
- Unaffected
- Reduced

13. Qualified students who wish to begin graduate work in spring rather than fall are:

- Not considered for admission.
- Considered for admission to the following fall semester/quarter.
- Considered for admission in spring in most or all circumstances.
- Considered for admission in spring in rare circumstances. (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

14. What else would you like students to know about the graduate admissions process? \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES REGARDING THE SURVEY.

The survey was conducted via the Internet. For the purposes of obtaining a list of responding schools and identifying duplicate responses, the names of schools were deduced from the IP addresses of the respondents. Schools with partial responses were notified and afforded an additional opportunity to complete the survey.

The term “program” was not defined. Some self-identified programs have atmospheric sciences as a subprogram. Only in response to inquiries were

respondents specifically instructed to treat all questions as referring to their atmospheric sciences subprogram.

Due to a design error, question 6 did not permit appropriate values to be entered for GRE analytical scores (verbal and math scores were unaffected).

In questions 9 and 10, the response “An undergraduate degree from one of the leading undergraduate programs” was intended to be general, but in context may have been interpreted as referring to leading undergraduate meteorology programs.