Program Change Request

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 08/18/17 2:50 pm

Viewing: PHD-ATMO : Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Sciences

Last edit: 10/05/17 2:56 pm
Changes proposed by: cbrannst

Contact(s)

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<td>Christian Brannstrom</td>
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Academic level: Graduate
Effective Term: 2018-2019
Department: Atmospheric Sciences
College: Geosciences
Program type: Degree
Degree designation: PhD - Doctor of Philosophy
With a major in: Atmospheric Sciences (ATMO)

Catalog Program Title:
Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Sciences
CIP and Fund code: 40040100

Rationale for Proposal:
We seek a dual-degree program with the Ocean University because of mutual research interests. This change is only for purpose of adding the dual-degree with Ocean University.

Program hours: 64
Is this program eligible for financial aid?: Yes
Program delivery mode:
- On-campus
- Out-of-Country
Will this program be offered with another institution?: Yes
% of Program a student can take off-campus or through Distance Education: 0%
Proposed Program Start Date: 08/2018

Catalog Program Requirements

Program Requirements

Student's Advisory Committee
Degree Plan
Transfer of Credit
Research Proposal
Examinations
Preliminary Examination
Preliminary Examination Format
Preliminary Examination Scheduling
Report of Preliminary Examination
Student’s Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty) concerning appointment of the chair of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee will consist of no fewer than four members of the graduate faculty representative of the student’s several fields of study and research, where the chair or co-chair must be from the student’s department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department. The outside member for a student in an interdisciplinary degree program must be from a department different from the chair of the student’s committee. The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student’s advisory committee. Other Texas A&M University graduate faculty members located off-campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a member as the chair.

If the chair of a student’s advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty, from the student’s academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of Intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student’s advisory committee without a co-chair for up to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

The committee members’ signatures on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign en masse. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student’s research and dissertation or record of study, has the responsibility for calling all meetings of the committee. The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the research proposal, the preliminary examination, the dissertation or record of study and the final examination. In addition, the committee, as a group and as individual members, is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Degree Plan

The student’s advisory committee will evaluate the student’s previous education and degree objectives. The committee, in consultation with the student, will develop a proposed degree plan and outline a research problem which, when completed, as indicated by the dissertation (or its equivalent for the degree of Doctor of Education or the degree of Doctor of Engineering), will constitute the basic requirements for the degree. The degree plan must be filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college and no later than 90 days prior to the preliminary examination.

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website http://gradsoss.tamu.edu. A minimum of 64 hours is required on the degree plan for the Doctor of Philosophy for a student who has completed a master’s degree. A student who has completed a DDS/DMD, DVM or a MD at a U.S. institution is also required to complete a minimum of 64 hours. A student who has completed a baccalaureate degree but not a master’s degree will be required to complete a 96-hour degree plan. Completion of a DDS/DMD, DVM or MD degree at a foreign institution requires completion of a minimum of 96 hours for the Doctor of Philosophy. A field of study may be completed in one department or in a combination of departments. A degree plan must carry a reasonable amount of 691 (research), 692 or 5908/5999 (research).

Additional coursework may be added by petition to the approved degree plan by the student’s advisory committee if it is deemed necessary to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination is approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Approval to enroll in any professional course (900-level) should be obtained from the head of the department (or Chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) in which the course will be offered before including such a course on a degree plan. No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

Transfer of Credit

Courses for which transfer credits are sought must have been completed with a grade of B or greater and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. These courses must not have been used previously for another degree. Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for “internship” coursework in any form is not transferable.

Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Credit for coursework taken by extension is not transferable. Courses taken in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours, or equated to semester credit hours.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPR. An official transcript from the university at which transfer courses are taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Research Proposal

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed upon by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research. As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student’s advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal, signed by all members of the student’s advisory committee, the head of the student’s major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.
Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website http://rcb.tamu.edu.

Examinations

Preliminary Examination for Doctoral Students Examination

The student’s major department (or chair of the interdisciplinary degree program intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) and his or her advisory committee may require qualifying, cumulative or other types of examinations at any time deemed desirable. These examinations are entirely at the discretion of the department and the student’s advisory committee.

The Credit for the preliminary examination is required, not transferable. The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog). S/U, S/UB, S/UB and S/UB courses. The student should strongly encourage to complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the last day of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan.

Preliminary Examination Format

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies must receive the results of the preliminary examination at least 14 weeks prior to the final examination date. The examination shall be oral and written unless otherwise recommended by the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The written portion of the examination will cover all fields of study included in the student’s degree plan. Each member of the advisory committee is responsible for administering a written examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in the examination. Two or more members of the advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination to supplement or replace a written examination. Each written examination must be completed and reported as satisfactory to the chair of the advisory committee before the oral portion of the examination may be held. The preliminary examination shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the degree plan. No written examination results may be submitted to the student’s advisory committee after the student’s formal coursework has been completed.

The preliminary examination shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan. In the schedule of the written portion, all members of the student’s advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in this part of the examination. Two or more members of the advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in this part of the examination.

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The Credit for the preliminary examination is required, not transferable. The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog). S/U, S/UB, S/UB and S/UB courses. The student should strongly encourage to complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the last day of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan.
Student is registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the long semester or summer term during which any component of the preliminary examination is held. majors. If the entire examination is held between semesters, then the student must be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination. An approved degree plan is on file with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, at least 60 days prior to the first component of the preliminary examination. Students cumulative GPR is at least 3.000. Student’s degree plan GPR is at least 3.000. All English language proficiency requirements are have been satisfied. At the end of the semester in which at least the first component of the exam is given, there are no more than 6 hours of coursework remaining on the degree plan (except 681, 684, 690, 691, 791, 792, 798, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog) and 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog) and 781. The time span from the first written examination to the oral is no more than three weeks. In all degree programs with written examinations, the deadline for the final examination is the last day of the semester or summer term. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination.

Credit for the preliminary examination is not transferable in situations where a student changes degree programs after passing a preliminary exam. If a written component precedes an oral component of the preliminary exam, the chair of the student’s examination committee is responsible for making all written examinations available to all members of the committee. A positive evaluation of the preliminary exam by all members of a student’s examination committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her preliminary examination.

The student’s department will promptly report the results of the Preliminary Examination. These forms should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of completion of the preliminary examination. The Report of the Preliminary Examination checklist must form be submitted with original signatures of the approved committee members. These should examination/defense results be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of completion of the preliminary examination. The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies must be notified in writing of any cancellations.

The Retake of Failed Preliminary Examination form must be submitted with original signatures of the approved committee members. These forms should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of the scheduled preliminary examination. The Report of the preliminary examination form must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The original signature of the department head (or Chair of the Interdisciplinary Degree Program, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

A student must be registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the regular or summer term in which they will take any portion of the Preliminary Examination. Final Examination Steps for Doctoral Students Completing the Preliminary Examination Final Examination/Dissertation Defense

The student’s degree plan must pass a final examination by deadline dates announced in the “Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar” each semester. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination. No unsolved grades of D, F, or U or any course can be listed on the degree plan. The request to hold and defense of the dissertation must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 16 weeks prior to the date of the final defense. The research proposal must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 12 weeks prior to the date of the final defense. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the appeal of the final examination. A 3.0 Graduate GPA is required to hold and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in all courses prior to the defense of the dissertation. A student must pass the preliminary examination, submit an approved dissertation proposal, meet the residency requirements.
The request to hold and announce the final examination research proposal must be have been submitted to the to the Office of Graduate and and Professional Studies a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the submission approval of the request for final examination.

Examination. The final examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have had adequate time to review the document.

Additionally, all English Language Proficiency requirements must be satisfied prior to scheduling the examination. Whereas the final examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the chair of the advisory committee, be invited to attend a final examination for an advanced degree. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

Report of Final Examination

The student's department advisory committee will promptly report submit its recommendations on the results of the appropriate Report of the Final Examination to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies via Petition of Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan.

A positive evaluation of the final exam by all members of a student's advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her final exam. A student must be registered in the University in the semester or summer term in which the final examination is taken. The Report of the Final Examination Form must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. If necessary, multiple copies of the form may be submitted with different committee member original signatures. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must be included on the form submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Dissertation

The ability to perform independent research must be demonstrated by the dissertation, which must be the original work of the candidate. Whereas acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. The format of the dissertation must be acceptable to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Guidelines for the preparation of the dissertation are available in the Thesis Manual, which is available online at http://ogaps.tamu.edu.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit his/her dissertation in electronic format as a single PDF file. The PDF file must be uploaded to the website. Additionally, a signed paper approval form with original signatures must be received by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Both the PDF file and the signed approval form are required by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting are announced each semester or summer term in the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar (see Time Limit statement). These dates can be viewed online at http://ogaps.tamu.edu. Each student who submits a document for review is assessed a one-time thesis/dissertation processing fee through Student Business Services. This processing fee is for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After commencement, dissertations are digitally stored and made available through the Texas A&M Libraries.

An dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process in order to graduate.

Additional Requirements

Residence
Time Limit
Continuous Registration
Admission to Candidacy
Languages
99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degree
Application for Degree

Residence

A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master's degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.

To satisfy the residence requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period. A student who enters a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree may fulfill residence requirements in excess of one academic year (18 credit hours) by registration during summer sessions or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan.

See Residence Requirements.
Time Limit

All requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within a period of ten consecutive calendar years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until 10 years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework more than ten calendar years old at the time of the final oral examination may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination.

A final corrected version of the dissertation or record of study in electronic format as a single PDF file must be cleared by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies no later than one year after the final examination or within the 10-year time limit, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

Continuous Registration

A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy who has completed all coursework on his/her degree plan other than 691, 5V98 or 5V99 (research) are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed. See Continuous Registration Requirements.

Admission to Candidacy

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

- completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, 5V98 and 5V99, or 791.
- a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
- passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
- submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
- met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

Languages

A student is required to possess a competent command of English. For English language proficiency requirements, see the Admissions section of this catalog. The doctoral (PhD) foreign language requirement at Texas A&M University is a departmental option, to be administered and monitored by the individual departments of academic instruction.

99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees

In Texas, public colleges and universities are funded by the state according to the number of students enrolled. In accordance with legislation passed by the Texas Legislature, the number of hours for which state universities may receive subvention funding at the doctoral rate for any individual is limited to 99 hours. Texas A&M University and other universities will not receive subvention for hours in excess of the limit.

Institutions of higher education are allowed to charge the equivalent of nonresident tuition to a resident doctoral student who has enrolled in 100 or more semester credit hours of doctoral coursework.

A doctoral student at Texas A&M has seven years to complete his/her degree before being charged out-of-state tuition. A doctoral student who, after seven years of study, has accumulated 100 or more doctoral hours will be charged tuition at a rate equivalent to out-of-state tuition. Please note that the tuition increases will apply to Texas residents as well as students from other states and countries who currently are charged tuition at the resident rate. This includes those doctoral students who hold GAT, GANT, and GAR appointments of 20 or more hours and recipients of competitive fellowships who receive more than $1,000 per semester. Doctoral students who, after seven years of study, have not accumulated 100 hours are eligible to pay in-state tuition if otherwise eligible.

For count purposes, a year is counted as three semesters, normally fall, spring and summer. Using this system, a student is allowed 21 semesters as a G8 student to complete the doctoral degree before being penalized with the higher tuition rate. Any semester in which a G8 student is enrolled for a doctoral level course is counted.

The following majors are exempt from the 99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees:
- Biomedical Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Genetics
- Toxicology
- Nutrition Sciences
- Community Clinical Psychology
- School Psychology
- Veterinary Pathology
- Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Medical Sciences
- Health Services Research
- Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences
- Epidemiology and Environmental Health
- Oral Biology

The hour limit for these majors is 130 doctoral hours

Application for Degree

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation section.

Additional information: The Provost’s Office and OGAPS have viewed the dual-degree document and given approval. I pasted text from the ATMO PhD into Catalog Program Requirements.

ATMO_OUC_DualDegree_Draft_17Aug2017.docx
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<tr>
<th>Required Proposal Forms</th>
<th>Reviewer Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Williams (sandra-williams) (08/21/17 8:43 am): Moving forward.</td>
<td>Deena McConnell (djm) (09/05/17 3:40 pm): MOA has been reviewed by the Provost's Office and OGAPS. All suggested revisions to meet SACSCOC and University requirements have been made.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Ramirez (rramirez) (09/26/17 3:06 pm): Additional Requirements Information needs to be added. This can be done at the GC Meeting.</td>
<td>LaRhesa Johnson (lrjohnson) (10/05/17 2:54 pm): Editorial updates submitted by OGAPS.</td>
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This Memorandum of Agreement between the Ocean University of China (OUC) and Texas A&M University (TAMU) applies only to the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at OUC and the College of Geosciences at TAMU.

Whereas the above named institutions are joined in agreement of mutual cooperation, the above named parties recognize that an agreement of cooperation would be of mutual benefit and would serve to implement a dual degree program leading to the TAMU Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Sciences at TAMU and the Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Sciences at OUC.

Academic Program Description

TAMU and OUC will offer a dual degree program under the terms set out below to further their educational and research collaborative relationships. This program will consist of the existing Doctor of Philosophy degree in Atmospheric Sciences offered by the College of Geosciences at TAMU, and the existing Doctor of Philosophy degree in Atmospheric Sciences offered by the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at OUC. The program will take effect once approval of the dual degree program by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has been obtained.

I. Recruitment and Admission

A. Recruitment and Admission Process:
OUC will nominate annually up to 6 graduate students who have completed one year of introductory classes with a minimum of B average grade in graduate course work for potential admission to the dual degree program. Information on these students, including copies of their transcripts, if available, will be sent to TAMU prior to a visit by TAMU faculty to OUC, where they will interview the students in English. Following these individual interviews, and subject to successful admission to the Ph.D. program in Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Geosciences, up to 3 students a year will be selected by the TAMU faculty to enroll at TAMU for a minimum of three years to complete their Ph.D. dissertation research and all other requirements for a Ph.D. degree in Atmospheric Sciences as set out in the TAMU Graduate Catalog at [http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/) as well as departmental guidelines as outlined in the departmental Graduate Handbook. Students from OUC may apply to carry out a Ph.D. in any aspect of Atmospheric Sciences, provided that each institution can supply faculty knowledgeable in that area to serve on their advisory committee. Students will be subject to the standard admission and enrollment requirements of TAMU, including GRE scores and proficiency in English. Specifically, applicants from non-English speaking countries must present a TOEFL score of at least 550 paper-based, 80 Internet-based, an IELTS score of at least 6.0 overall band or a PTE Academic score of 53 to be admitted to graduate studies and receive the documents necessary to apply for a visa.

B. Students’ Financial Support

a) Each dual degree Ph.D. student in good academic standing will be eligible to compete for scholarships from OUC and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to cover living expenses while in residence at TAMU.

b) The faculty supervisor at TAMU is expected to provide financial support for student tuition and fees while the student is in residence at TAMU for a maximum of four years for students in good academic standing.

c) Each student will be responsible for the costs of travel to and from the United States, housing, books, and subsistence. All students will be required to obtain health insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in the United States.

II. Program Requirements

A. Curricular Design of the Program

Students must satisfy the requirements leading to the Ph.D. degree in Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Geosciences at TAMU and the Ph.D. degree in Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at OUC. Each degree is awarded separately upon fulfilling the full set of requirements at each respective
institution. As described below, each degree program consists of three central requirements: 1) core coursework; 2) qualifying and preliminary examinations; and 3) research and dissertation.

B. Requirements for the Ph.D. at TAMU
   a) Each student must satisfy degree requirements for the Ph.D. at TAMU as detailed in the TAMU Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of admission.
   b) Each student must satisfy any additional requirements for obtaining a Ph.D. in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, as outlined in the departmental Graduate Student Handbook.

B.1) Coursework Requirements
   a) Successful completion of all required core coursework required for the Atmospheric Sciences Ph.D. program.
   b) Decisions on the choice of elective courses will be made by the student in consultation with his/her advisory committee.
   c) Dual degree students may transfer up to 20 hours of graduate level coursework, for both core and elective courses, subject to satisfactory review and recommendations by the student’s advisory committee, the departmental graduate instruction committee and approval by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at TAMU. The departmental graduate instruction committee will review syllabi for all courses submitted by incoming OUC students for transfer of credit to ensure that they meet the requirements for both TAMU and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
   d) While in residence at OUC, dual degree students will be enrolled in an appropriate Study Abroad course section at TAMU in order to satisfy the “continuous enrollment” requirement of TAMU. Each student must spend at least one year enrolled full-time in residence at TAMU.

B.2) Dissertation Requirements
   a) The TAMU Ph.D. Advisory Committee for each student will be chaired by a member of the graduate faculty from TAMU and co-chaired by a member of the faculty from OUC. The committee will consist of a minimum of four faculty members. The majority shall be from TAMU and at least one will be from a different department than the student’s major department. The dissertation topic will be determined by the student in consultation with his/her advisors.
   b) Faculty advisors and committee members from OUC must be approved as members of the graduate faculty at TAMU at the appropriate level. Application for nomination to the graduate committee faculty at TAMU is covered by Texas A&M University Graduate Faculty Guidelines, and includes review and approval of the nomination by
relevant departmental committees, the College of Geosciences Graduate Instruction Committee, and Dean.

c) All incoming students are expected to pass the departmental Ph.D. qualifying exam within 24 months of enrollment at TAMU. GPA greater than 3.0 is required to be eligible to take the qualifying exam.

d) Each student must pass the TAMU Ph.D. Preliminary Examination after completion of required coursework.

e) To enter into Candidacy for the Ph.D., each student must submit a written Dissertation Proposal approved by the TAMU Ph.D. Advisory Committee after successful completion of the Preliminary Examination.

f) After completion of the Ph.D. dissertation, each student will defend the dissertation through an Oral Final Examination administered by the student’s TAMU Ph.D. Advisory Committee.

g) After a successful dissertation defense and final approval of the written dissertation, the student will be awarded the degree from TAMU.

h) The TAMU degree must be awarded prior to the OUC degree.

C. Requirements for the Ph.D. at OUC
   a) Each student must satisfy degree requirements for the Ph.D. at OUC as detailed in the OUC Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of admission and outlined below.

C.1) Coursework Requirements
   a) Successful completion of all required coursework in different modules required for the Atmospheric Sciences Ph.D. program.
   b) Decisions on the choice of elective courses will be made by the student in consultation with his/her advisor.

C.2) Dissertation Requirements
   a) The OUC Ph.D. Advisory Committee for each student will be chaired by a member of the graduate faculty from OUC and co-chaired by a member of the faculty from TAMU. The committee will consist of a minimum of five faculty members. The dissertation topic will be determined by the student in consultation with his/her advisors.
   b) To enter into Candidacy for the Ph.D., each student is expected to pass the departmental Ph.D. dissertation proposal through an oral defense within 24 months of enrollment at OUC and after completion of required coursework. Each student must submit a written Dissertation Proposal approved by the OUC Ph.D. Advisory Committee after successful completion of the defense.
   c) Each student must pass the OUC Ph.D. mid-assessment and submit a written mid-assessment report approved by the OUC Ph.D. Advisory Committee.
   d) After completion of the Ph.D. dissertation, each student will defend the dissertation through an Oral Final Examination administered by the student’s OUC Ph.D. Defense
Committee. The Ph.D. Defense Committee for each student will consist of a minimum of seven faculty members. At least three will be from a different department than the student’s major department.

e) After a successful dissertation defense and final approval of the written dissertation, as well as two papers published required by the Graduate School of OUC, the student will be awarded the degree from OUC.

D. Dual Degree Program Requirements
   a) Students must spend at least one year in residence at OUC prior to being admitted to the dual degree program and at least three years in residence at TAMU after being admitted.

III. Academic Standing
   a) To be considered in good academic standing and to be eligible to take the Oral Final Examination, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must be maintained at TAMU and all requirements for TAMU Ph.D. Candidacy must be satisfied. In addition to the GPA and candidacy requirements, good academic standing requires sufficient progress toward the degree based on the TAMU and OUC Ph.D. Advisory Committees’ evaluations of the student’s annual progress report.
   b) Verification process for program completion: At TAMU, the student’s Ph.D. Advisory Committee chair and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies shall verify successful completion of the academic program. At OUC, the student’s Ph.D. Advisory Committee chair and the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences will verify the successful completion of the program.
   c) Program time limits: All degree requirements must be completed within a period of five years from the date of initial enrollment at TAMU, and within a period of eight years from the initial date of enrollment at OUC.

IV. Program Oversight and Assessment
   a) Oversight will be provided by a Program Advisory Board consisting of two representatives from each party. Membership of the Program Advisory Board will be determined by the Dean of the College of Geosciences at TAMU and the Dean of the Graduate School at OUC. Meetings of the Program Advisory Board will be held annually during the interview process for new students and additionally as needed via internet conference or in person. Any modifications to the dual degree program must be approved by both institutions.
   b) The Program Advisory Board will conduct the assessment of the dual degree program, screen applications and conduct interviews of applicants, monitor the progress of the participating students, and review the qualifications of participating
faculty.
c) Program assessment will be undertaken annually by the Program Advisory Board as measured by progress made by students towards completion of the dual degree program.
d) TAMU will ensure that all arrangements relating to the dual degree program comply with the requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the SACSCOC document “Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards: Policies and Procedures.”
e) OUC will ensure that all arrangements relating to the dual degree program comply with the requirements for higher education in China.
f) Records for students enrolled in the dual degree program will be maintained by the College of Geosciences at TAMU and by the Graduate School at OUC.
g) TAMU shall evaluate the quality of the program and the courses offered through this agreement at least every two years. Additionally, the dual degree should be evaluated against the mission of the institution. Written documentation shall be submitted as part of the annual institutional effectiveness process for student learning.

V. Responsibility Sharing

a) No special funds have been allocated for this program, and the courses taken by the students in College Station will be regular courses taught by TAMU faculty as part of their normal teaching responsibilities. Financial responsibility for administrative costs associated with the program is the responsibility of each party and should be incorporated into their respective budgets.
b) The chair of the student’s TAMU Ph.D. Advisory Committee in the College of Geosciences at TAMU will be responsible for arranging financial support for travel, as needed, for the OUC co-chair to attend the TAMU required examinations, including the dissertation defense. OUC will similarly be responsible for providing financial support for the TAMU co-chair to attend the candidates’ dissertation defense in China, as needed. Remote participation in the examinations may also occur via teleconferencing or Skype.
c) Any modifications to the dual degree program must be approved by both parties and the Program Advisory Board.
d) All activities conducted under this Memorandum of Agreement will be in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations of TAMU and OUC, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations.

VI. Designation of Coordinators

Each party designates the following officials to serve as Coordinators under this Memorandum
of Agreement. The individuals designated as Coordinators may be revised by either university by providing written notice to the current Coordinators.

**Texas A&M University**

- http://atmo.tamu.edu/
- Name: Dr. Ping Yang
- Office: 1204 O&M Building
- Mailing Address: Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX USA 77843-3150
- Phone Number: +1 979-845-7211
- pyang@tamu.edu

**Ocean University of China**

- http://web1.ouc.edu.cn/_s100/main.psp/
- Name: Dr. Fei Huang
- Office: College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science
- Mailing Address: Qingdao, PR China, 266100
- Phone Number: +86 532-66786326
- huangf@ouc.edu.cn

**VII. Term**

a) This Memorandum of Agreement will become effective the latter of: (a) six months following TAMU’s required notification to SACSCOC or (b) when TAMU receives a formal, written acceptance of this notification and agreement from SACSCOC. This Memorandum of Agreement will have a duration of five years.

b) This Memorandum of Agreement may be terminated by either party by providing written notice to the participating parties 180 days in advance.

c) Students participating in the program at the end of the five-year term or if the Memorandum of Agreement is terminated under section VII.b) will be allowed to complete the dual degree program under the terms set out in this Agreement.

**VIII. General**

a) Expenses incurred by each party under this Memorandum of Agreement will be the sole responsibility of the appropriate department and all activities will be dependent upon budgetary appropriations of the parties.

b) Each institution agrees to comply with the host country’s immigration guidelines in support of exchanges of international students and/or faculty.

Disclaimer statement:
Texas A&M University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Ph.D. degrees. Ocean University of China is not accredited by the SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Texas A&M University does not extend to or include Ocean University of China or its students. Further, although Texas A&M University agrees to accept certain course work from Ocean University of China to be applied toward an award from Texas A&M University, that course work may not be accepted by other
colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from Texas A&M University. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

The above disclaimer must be included in any materials describing the relationship of the parties. TAMU has the right to review, approve, and monitor OUC’s statements of relationship to ensure conformity with the disclaimer.

The parties have executed this Memorandum of Agreement on the date and year last specified below:

Texas A&M University                                         Ocean University of China

Mr. Michael Young                                           Dr. Zhigang Yu
President                                                   President
Texas A&M University                                        Ocean University of China

Dr. Karan Watson                                            Dr. Ju Yan
Provost and Executive Vice President                       Vice President & Dean of Graduate School
Texas A&M University                                        Ocean University of China

Dr. Deborah Thomas                                          Hongda Shi
Interim Dean, College of Geoscience                         Vice Executive Dean of Graduate School
Texas A&M University                                        Ocean University of China

Date                                                        Date