

Bellevue College Meteorology – Frequently Asked Questions

Does Bellevue College offer degrees in Meteorology?

No, BC does not currently offer a 4-year degree in Meteorology, and has no plans to do so in the foreseeable future. Our Meteorology Department currently offers two courses: Meteorology 101 (Introduction to the Weather), and Meteorology 211 (Global Warming: Causes and Consequences). These courses are elective science courses suitable for non-science majors, but can certainly provide prospective future Meteorology majors with a good introduction to the subject. Students planning to transfer to a 4-year college or university and major in Meteorology should follow the Associate in Science, Track II pathway described in the following:

(<https://bellevuecollege.edu/programs/degrees/transfer/astrack2-physics>)

If I want to transfer to a 4-year university and major in Meteorology/Atmospheric Science, what are some good schools?

The University of Washington is one of the highest-ranked schools in the country for both undergraduate and graduate studies in Atmospheric Science (<http://www.atmos.washington.edu/>). It is the only institution of higher learning in Washington that offers degrees in this subject. The following link provides a good list of some of the top colleges and universities offering degrees in Meteorology and related sciences: <https://www.collegefactual.com/majors/physical-sciences/atmospheric-sciences-meteorology/rankings/top-ranked/>

What courses should I take to prepare to be a Meteorology major?

The simple answer is – lots of math (at least through calculus) and physical science (especially physics and chemistry). Courses in communications, both written and verbal, are also quite useful, especially for those planning to go into weather forecasting. Some training or experience in computer science/information technology is also very useful.

What types of jobs are available to graduates with degrees in Meteorology?

The most visible and familiar meteorologists are usually those involved in broadcast news media. However, that constitutes a very small percentage of working meteorologists. There are also weather forecasting jobs within government and

industry. The National Weather Service, a Federal Government agency, is the largest single employer of meteorologists in the United States. Private consulting meteorologists provide professional advice to a wide variety of users, ranging from insurance companies, to power utilities, to agricultural interests. Meteorologists who have advanced degrees (Master's or PhD) are also often involved in teaching and scientific research. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that employment of meteorologists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. The best job prospects will be in private industry.