

PhD Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences (Thesis)

Course Selection Guidelines 2023–2024

Information for all PhD students

All students admitted to the PhD degree in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences must review the information in this document and consult their supervisor prior to finalizing course selection.

Students who have completed a Master's degree in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences typically register for the following courses:

- Minimum of **two 3-credit courses** from the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, at the 500 or 600 level, as approved by the Graduate Program Director (Program requirement)

and

- **ATOC 751 D1 and D2** - Seminar: Physical Meteorology (0.5 credit in Fall, 0.5 credit in Winter), (Program requirement)
or
ATOC 752 D1 and D2 - Atmospheric, Oceanic and Climate Dynamics (0.5 credit in Fall, 0.5 credit in Winter)

3-credit courses

The required 3-credit courses may normally be completed at any time before the PhD 5 year, but typically are completed during the first year of the program. A list of currently offered 500-level courses is shown under <https://www.mcgill.ca/meteo/programs-0/graduate-studies/graduate-programs>. For course descriptions and details on whether and in which term a course will be offered, see the listings on that webpage under [course descriptions](#).

Students typically select courses which will assist their preparation for the Comprehensive Examination (ATOC 701), which is normally scheduled in the last four months of the PhD 2 year.

Topics which may be included in the Comprehensive Examination, and associated preparatory courses, are listed here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/meteo/programs-0/graduate-studies/graduate-programs> (under PhD Program > PhD Curriculum > ATOC 701 PhD Comprehensive (General)). **We strongly recommend** that students review this list of possible examination topics before planning their course registration.

ATOC 751 and 752 – AOS student seminar series

ATOC 751 and 752 consist of a series of seminars presented by AOS graduate students. Currently the two seminar series are combined as one year-long seminar series; therefore there is no distinction between registering for ATOC 751 and registering for ATOC 752. Students must register for one or the other, but not for both.

Students register **once** during their program for either ATOC 751 D1 and D2, or ATOC 752 D1 and D2.

If students choose ATOC 751, they must complete ATOC 751 D1 (Fall) and D2 (Winter) in the same academic year, normally in either the PhD 3 or the PhD 4 year.

If students choose ATOC 752, they must complete ATOC 752 D1 (Fall) and D2 (Winter) in the same academic year, normally in either the PhD 3 or the PhD 4 year.

Students who have not completed a Master's degree in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

Students who have not completed a Master's degree in Atmospheric and/or Oceanic Sciences, such as students admitted at the PhD 1 level, must complete the minimum coursework requirements listed on page 1 of this document. In addition, students in this situation are typically required to register for additional coursework credits in their first year. In particular, students in their PhD 1 year will take a course load similar to that of a MSc 1 student (a total of 7 courses) in order to acquire a broad basis of knowledge in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences (see details [here](#)). They may wish to follow the course selection guidelines for the first year of the MSc program. PhD students following this path:

- Must **not** register for any MSc Thesis course (ATOC 691 to 699), and
- Must remember to complete ATOC 751 D1 and D2, or ATOC 752 D1 and D2, normally in the PhD 3 or PhD 4 year, as described in earlier sections of this document, and
- Must consult their supervisor prior to finalizing course selection.

Formal program requirements – all PhD students

Formal program requirements are listed in the McGill University eCalendar, at

https://www.mcgill.ca/study/2023-2024/files/study.2023-2024/2023-2024_graduate_postdoctoral_ecalendar_1st_edition.pdf

Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the program requirements listed on the eCalendar page for their program.

If you have questions concerning these program requirements, please consult the Student Affairs Coordinator at graduateinfo.aos@mcgill.ca, and/or your supervisor, and/or the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Thomas Preston (thomas.preston@mcgill.ca).

Approval of the Graduate Program Director

Students wishing to register for graduate courses (500 level and higher) from other departments **must obtain the approval of the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Thomas Preston.** Students can contact Dr. Preston at thomas.preston@mcgill.ca.

Academic Standing

Graduate students must obtain grades of B- or better in courses used to fulfil program requirements.

If a grade of B- or better cannot be attained, **the resulting grade will be F (Fail)**, as shown in the grade scale used for graduate studies at McGill:

Grading and Grade Point Averages (GPA)		
Grades	Grade Points	Numerical Scale of Grades
A	4.0	85–100%
A-	3.7	80–84%
B+	3.3	75–79%
B	3.0	70–74%
B-	2.7	65–69%
F (Fail)	0	0–64%

Credit system at McGill University

Most courses in our program are assigned a weight of 3 credits. At McGill a 3-credit course normally indicates three hours of lectures per week for one term (13 weeks).

McGill University Course Schedule

To access the McGill University Course Schedule:

1. Go to https://horizon.mcgill.ca/pban1/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched or search online for “McGill Dynamic Schedule”.
2. Select the desired term.
Please note that ATOC courses are offered in Fall and Winter terms only. Courses offered by other departments may be scheduled in Fall, Winter, or Summer.
3. Select the desired subject.
For example, all courses offered by our department are listed under subject code “ATOC”.
4. Leave default settings in all other fields.
5. Click on the “Get Course Sections” button.

Notation used for days of the week: “T” is used to indicate Tuesday; “R” is used to indicate Thursday.