

Degree Requirements:

Title: Land and Atmospheric Science

Degree: MS plan A and B, and PhD

Departmental Home: Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
439 Borlaug Hall
1991 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, Minnesota 55018

Summary

The program aims to educate and train students in the fundamentals of Earth system processes related to land and atmosphere and the coupled interactions between the two. Coursework consists of unifying core classes in “Land & Atmospheric Science” for all students, plus graduate electives spanning soil science, ecosystem processes, and atmospheric science.

The LAAS program offers no formal tracks. Students may choose either a Soil Science or the Atmospheric Science area of interest or, in consultation with their graduate committee, may design a rigorous course of study that spans across these areas, according to their own specific focus within Land & Atmospheric Science (for example, biogeochemical cycling, environmental chemistry, biometeorology, etc).

Our goal is to develop an integrated graduate course in land and atmospheric science in order to address scientific problems that are inherently multidisciplinary.

We agree to work toward integration and will eliminate language related to required courses in an emphasis area. Students will then need to work closely with their advisors to determine a suitable set of courses for their particular area of study. This offers greater flexibility in our program.

Course Credit Requirements

LAAS MS requires a total of 30 credits, including: 5 credits in required LAAS core courses; 9 credits in other LAAS (or related) courses relevant to the student’s research; 6 credits in minor/related courses; and 10 thesis credits. Students will need to work closely with their advisors to determine a suitable set of courses for their particular area of study. The Plan B MS degree (project/coursework option) requires 20 credits in core and minor courses along with the required LAAS core courses.

LAAS PhD requires a total of 49 credits, including: 10 credits in required LAAS core courses; 6 credits in LAAS courses relevant to the student’s research; 12 credits in minor/related courses; and 24 thesis credits. The student’s graduate committee and graduate advisor will approve the selection of appropriate courses to meet this requirement; depending on the student’s emphasis and background, additional coursework may be required. An additional 24 doctoral thesis credits must be completed before receiving the Ph.D. degree; however, doctoral thesis credits may not be taken before completion of all program coursework requirements and advancement to candidacy.