Master of Professional Studies (MPAO) The Master of Professional Studies in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science is designed for meteorologists, oceanographers and environmental scientists who need cutting-edge skills and knowledge in atmospheric and oceanic science, in the computational methods used in our field, and in air quality science. The Director of Professional Studies will advise students in planning his or her course of study, and will provide career advice. The degree is earned by successful completion of ten 3-credit courses. Students must complete two out of the following three Certificate programs, each of which consists of four courses, plus two courses from the remaining Certificate Program. The MPAO program is designed with the needs of working professionals in mind, and can be completed on a part-time basis over no more than 5 years, or on a full-time basis in 1 year and one semester.