

**Guidelines for the Comprehensive Exam  
Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Group  
University of California, Davis**

The Atmospheric Sciences Master degree Plan II requires satisfactory completion of a written examination (no more than 5 hours to complete). The MS comprehensive exam committee, which is appointed by the Graduate Group Chair, establishes the contents of the exam. All students are required to answer one question from a course in each of the five emphases—dynamics, climate, atmospheric chemistry/air quality, biometeorology/boundary layer, and atmospheric physics—with at least two questions to be selected by the student from graduate level courses.

**When can you take the Comprehensive Examination?**

The Comprehensive Examination is offered toward the end of each quarter. Please contact Adele Igel ([aigel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aigel@ucdavis.edu)), chair of the Comprehensive Examination Committee, prior to the start of the quarter during which you want to take the CE to ensure sufficient time to develop the questions for your Comprehensive Examination. You will also need to identify the five courses that will be used to develop the five Comprehensive Examination questions.

**What are possible Comprehensive Examination outcomes?**

To pass the MS comprehensive exam, you must demonstrate strong proficiency in all but one of the tested subjects and cannot show any major deficiencies in the remaining subject. Strong proficiency corresponds to grades equal or above 6/10, weak proficiency to grades equal or above 5 and below 6, and major deficiency to grades below 5.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee, having reached a unanimous decision, shall inform the student of its decision to:

- “Pass” (no conditions may be appended to this decision);
- “Fail”.
- “Not Pass” (the Chair’s report should specify whether the student is required to retake all or part of the examination, list any additional requirements, and state the exact timeline for completion of requirements to achieve a “Pass”); or