Program of Study
The discipline of meteorology is the study of the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the processes that generate the weather. Students who complete the major will be exposed to concepts, methodologies, and practical applications related to both weather analysis and forecasting. The core of the degree includes courses in synoptic meteorology (study of atmospheric circulation, cyclonic rotation, weather forecasting, and weather map analysis) and dynamic meteorology (atmospheric thermodynamics and the equations that describe atmospheric motion). Through this structure, students learn how to forecast weather and use the specialized equipment and reporting techniques associated with weather observations, weather radar, and remotely sensed information.

Faculty
All meteorology courses are taught by faculty members holding doctoral degrees from distinguished universities across the United States. The faculty members have a broad range of competencies which provides opportunities for students with different inclinations and talents. Meteorology class sizes are small, which means that students receive one-on-one attention from faculty members who are actively engaged in students’ progress throughout their college experience. While the department’s primary focus is teaching, faculty members are also actively engaged in research and publishing. Since 2010, members of the geography and meteorology faculty have been awarded $522,000 in highly competitive National Science Foundation grants. Grant funding gives students the chance to conduct hands-on scientific research under the guidance of department members. Faculty members have also been published in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals individually and jointly with students.

Scholarships
Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-2763; Western’s Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors in Meteorology
To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours (suh). Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors. General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members.

Student Activities
Two departmental societies provide students with opportunities to engage in activities that support atmospheric knowledge and awareness. Gamma Theta Upsilon is the international honor society in geography open to students who have completed at least nine hours of geography courses with at least a 3.3 GPA. The Severe Weather Club is a very active student group whose goals are increasing weather awareness through outreach and education, as well as increasing the sense of community among students.
Special Opportunities
In addition to the in-class educational experience, students are involved with real-world applications of meteorology. Such applications include creating forecasts that are aired on local radio stations, delivering the weather segment of the television news on WWIR (on-campus TV station), posting weather forecasts on the Geography department’s website, and engaging in internships at a National Weather Service regional office or the weather department of television stations. The department has several instruments and facilities to enhance the student experience, including a weather station, weather radar, a Linux laboratory, and a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) laboratory.

After College
With completion of the degree in Meteorology, students will meet the National Weather Service (NWS) curricular requirements for employment as a meteorologist. Our graduates have been highly successful in finding employment in four areas:

1. Weather Forecasting – Forecasting has always been at the heart of meteorology and has seen exciting advances, which aid in the ability to predict the weather. Meteorologists produce forecasts for the U.S. with sophisticated computer models.
2. Atmospheric Research – Research meteorologists often work closely with scientists in basic physical disciplines such as chemistry, physics, and mathematics, as well as with oceanographers, hydrologists, and researchers in other branches of environmental science.
3. Broadcast Meteorology – Broadcast meteorologists deliver their own local and national forecasts on television and radio.
4. Private Sector Meteorology – Private forecasting organizations provide highly specialized forecasts for clients with very specific needs such as short-term, small-scale snow forecasts for city public works managers, weather reports for commodities traders who are concerned about the effects of weather on crop production and prices, and game-day weather reports for athletic events such as professional football games and golf tournaments. Many others also hire meteorologists such as insurance companies, the military, instrumentation companies, and software companies.

For More Information
Feel free to contact the Department of Geography for further information about the Meteorology degree or to arrange a campus visit. The department phone number is (309) 298-1648 and our e-mail address is geography@wiu.edu. You can also learn more about the department by visiting our website at wiu.edu/geography.

Higher Values in Higher Education
Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual’s membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.