

1. Vision and Mission

Vision:

The vision of the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences (MEAS) at NCSU is to be an internationally-recognized hub of excellence in geoscience research and education, to the lasting benefit of our scientific disciplines, our graduates, and all humankind.

Mission

Our domain, the geosciences, encompasses the dynamics and history of the solid Earth, its natural water systems, its atmosphere, and its global biodiversity. Our mission, as a large interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary geosciences department at a major research-oriented Land-Grant University, is:

- to conduct innovative fundamental and applied research in the geosciences in order to open up new understanding of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, solid Earth, and biota, and the processes that connect them
- to educate students who will become leaders in government and industry, and pioneers in the advancement of geoscience knowledge in academia
- to teach introductory courses that reach hundreds of NCSU non-geoscience majors every year, thereby promoting among NCSU students a broader understanding of processes and critical issues regarding the Earth, oceans, atmosphere, and biosphere
- to offer guidance, founded in our scientific expertise, on pressing societal issues related to the geosciences (for example, natural hazards, environmental quality, water resources, etc.).

The research challenges and societal importance of the geosciences have never been greater. Research and teaching in MEAS address some of the most complex and important geoscience issues facing North Carolina and the world, including hurricanes, floods, climate change, water and air pollution, coastal erosion, the sustainability of fisheries, environmental cycles of critical elements (e.g., carbon and nitrogen), and the history of life itself. There is an urgent need for an informed citizenry and competent leaders to make sound choices concerning many of these issues. MEAS graduates are well prepared to apply geoscience knowledge to important problems with societal, economic, environmental, and scientific relevance, in a variety of professional career paths in the atmospheric sciences, oceanography, and Earth sciences.