

Formal separation of degree programs in atmospheric and oceanic sciences, and astrophysical and planetary sciences
Background, justification, and implementation in SIS, CCHE records, and federal reporting

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Background

Since 1993, CU-Boulder has enrolled students in two distinct doctoral and master's programs-- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences. These are abbreviated, *for this document only*, as AO and AP. AP existed prior to 1993; AO did not.

Although the programs have been distinct to faculty and to students for 15 years, they remain as a single Regent- and CCHE-approved degree program in Regent records, in CDHE/CCHE records, in federal reporting (and so in our public data on degrees granted), and in the language that appears on the diploma. This language reads "Astro-Physic Planetary & Atmospheric Science."

Furthermore, students in both programs were assigned the same major code (APAS) until 2006, when the major code ATOC was enabled on SIS and assigned to AO students for spring 2006 and later terms. Only since 2006 have student transcripts differentiated AO and AP students.

In the campus "organizational table" used in financial and human resources records, the department of astrophysical and planetary sciences (formerly astrophysical, planetary and atmospheric sciences) has existed as a department in the College of Arts and Sciences for many years. It runs the AP program. The AO program was run by PAOS, the program in atmospheric and oceanic science, until PAOS became an independent academic department, named atmospheric and oceanic science, also in Arts and Sciences, in December 2005.

The department of atmospheric and oceanic science has now proposed that the AO program be recognized as a separate approved degree program. At the same time, the department of astrophysical and planetary sciences has requested a name change in the AP program. This document

- Demonstrates that there is sufficient student demand in both AO and AP to justify two separate programs
- Proposes all changes in SIS and in CCHE records necessary for implementation

Student demand

Enrollment and degrees in both programs far exceed the historic CDHE/CCHE criteria for PhD programs (1 degree each year or 3 in 3 years). Counts for AP in this section exclude AO students and degrees.

Fall 2007 enrollment: AO 57, AP 42. This number is typical of recent years, with at least 30 AO students and 40 AP students each fall 2000 and later. AO almost doubled in size between 2000 and 2007.

Fiscal year 2007 PhD degrees: AO 2, AP 6. In the years 2000-2007, AO has had 2-6 graduates per year, AP 3 to 11.

FY 2007 master's degrees: AO 4, AP 7. Most but not all enrolled students in both programs are pursuing doctorates.

Historic enrollment and degree counts for the AO and AP program, based on the departments' categorization of students, are shown at <http://www.colorado.edu/pba/records/apasatoc.htm>.

Implementation of the split

Implementing the split requires specifying all the following while meeting requirements of the departments, SIS, the SIS replacement (Campus Solutions), CDHE/CCHE, and the US Dept of Education:

- Degree program name – what appears on the diploma
- Federal CIP code for the degree program, with its translation – used by UCB and by CDHE/CCHE for reporting and tracking degree programs, and in peer data exchanges
- Major code on SIS
- SIS translation of the major code – appears on the transcript
- Course subject codes

Any changes are interrelated – for example, if the translations of the major code, or the degree name, are changed in any substantive way, then the major code itself must be changed as well, so that transcripts and diplomas generated now for past enrollment and graduation terms will retain the name in effect at the time, not the new name.

Both current and proposed specifications for all elements, for both AO and AP programs, are shown in the table following the text.

SIS/CCHE/federal reporting implementation of split of APS and ATOC degrees

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Changes from current are marked with yellow highlight.

		Regents and CDHE/CCHE must know/OK				CDHE/CCHE must know/OK				
						Federal reporting code				
		Major code	Major code translation (appears on transcript), max 32 characters	Degrees	Degree name on diploma, Regent, and CDHE/CCHE records	Code	Federal translation	Dept name	Course subject	Apply Yourself grad application
AP	Now	APAS	ASTROPHYS, PLANETARY & ATM SC	PhD, MS	Astro-Physic Planetary & Atmospheric Science	40.0202	Astrophysics	astrophysical and planetary sciences	ASTR	Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
AP	proposed	See green below	ASTROPHYSICAL & PLANETARY SCI	PhD, MS	Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences	40.0202	Astrophysics	astrophysical and planetary sciences	ASTR	Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
AO	Now	ATOC	ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES	PhD, MS	Astro-Physic Planetary & Atmospheric Science	40.0202	Astrophysics	atmospheric and oceanic sciences	ATOC	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
AO	proposed	ATOC	ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES	PhD, MS	Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	40.0401	Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology, General	atmospheric and oceanic sciences	ATOC	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

The federal reporting code is a CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code used by the US Dept of Education, by CCHE, and by the AAU data exchange to code disciplines
See tab CIPCodes for backup rationale for CIP 40.0401 for AO

Choices for major codes for AP - must be new, must be 4 characters

ASPL Astrophysical PLanetary
APPL AstroPhysical PLanetary
ASPS Astrophysical Planetary Sciences
APPS AstroPhysical Planetary Sciences
 APS not allowed, must be 4 characters
 APAS not allowed, must be new