

# **Experiences from a First Year Employee at the National Weather Service**

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Earning a position with one of the 122 National Weather Service (NWS) offices that span across the United States and its territories has become increasingly competitive in recent years. It requires diverse experiences, excellent communication skills and a passion for pursuing the NWS mission of protecting life and property and the advancement of the national economy. While an NWS internship can certainly give insight into the “behind the scenes” of NWS operations, there may still be unanswered questions. Some may include the reality of rotating shift work, communicating in both scientific and non-scientific terms, quality-controlling weather data, launching weather balloons and completing the required comprehensive training for a career in the NWS.

Many undergraduate programs certainly provide students with a solid understanding of the physical processes that control the atmosphere, exposure to research and writing scientific papers and even a taste of programming language; however, there are many skills not necessarily taught in the classroom that are highly useful for any NWS employee. Given the addition of the NWS Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) mission, having real-world experiences working with and learning from our core-partners as they make crucial and time-sensitive decisions are invaluable.

This presentation will discuss how I adapted the skills I learned as an undergraduate meteorology student and in my professional experiences to support the NWS mission and successfully complete my first year at the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Albany, NY. It will also offer insight into daily NWS operations and advice to students who are interested in joining the NWS.