

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 20-103**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2021**

**Training and Education  
Training and Education NWSPD 20-1**

**METEOROLOGIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**Type of Issuance:** Routine

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This directive supersedes NWSI 20-103, “Forecaster Development Program Training”, dated September 25, 2002. Changes were made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization, effective April 1, 2015. The following changes were also made to this instruction:

- 1) Renamed this Instruction “Meteorologist Development Plan”.
- 2) Updated “Purpose” and “Overview” sections to reflect replacement of Forecaster Development Program with Meteorologist Development Plan as the national standard meteorologist training program.
- 3) Updated content to include connections to the GS 1340 grade 5-to-12 career ladder in the NWS and required training outlined in other NWS Instructions.
- 4) Included URLs to associated material.

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Date

## Meteorologist Development Plan

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### 1 Purpose

The National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorologist Development Plan (MDP) is a competency-based training framework designed for General Schedule 1340 (Meteorologist) positions at the following NWS operational units:

- Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs)
- The National Centers for Environmental Prediction’s Weather Prediction Center (WPC)
- The National Hurricane Center’s Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)

Much of the training and developmental activities contained within the MDP will be relevant to new and experienced meteorologists within these operational units. The MDP should be tailored to needs of the individual by the local Science and Operations Officer (SOO).

The MDP should be used to provide meteorologists moving up the General Schedule (GS) 1340 grades 5-12 “career ladder” the training resources needed to stay on pace to meet the performance requirements associated with each grade increase. The MDP should also be used by the SOO to create training plans ensuring meteorologists at and beyond the GS-12 level are maintaining competency at the full performance level.

The MDP will be updated at least once per fiscal year by the NWS Office of the Chief Learning Officer to incorporate new and updated training relevant to meteorologists assigned to the listed operational units.

### 2 Overview of Meteorologist Development Plan

The MDP includes:

- Required training elements as outlined in various Instructions contained within the NWS Directives System and email announcements
- Training elements addressing requirements outlined in the NWS Professional Development Series (PDSs) in various service areas
- Other training resources designed to establish and bolster competency
- Optional, supplemental training elements and developmental activities intended to deepen understanding in specific areas

The MDP is built around meteorologist job performance dimensions and their associated competencies as described in the GS 5-12 meteorologist career progression. A full list of these job dimensions and competencies, links to the current versions of the PDSs, and links to the current version of the MDP and associated resources, can be found at the following URL (NOAA access only):

<https://sites.google.com/noaa.gov/nws-fdtd/meteorologist-training-resources>

The MDP curricula are housed within the Commerce Learning Center (CLC), the learning management system for the NWS. The CLC includes several features intended to guide SOOs and meteorologists to the right training and development activities at the right time.

The MDP is intended to be flexible and tailored to the individual skills and proficiencies of the meteorologist. A meteorologist who has already demonstrated competency or expertise in a certain topic may be “excused” from non-nationally required redundant training and developmental activities. The CLC includes the ability to excuse individual curriculum components which allows the meteorologist to still attain completed status for the curriculum.