

**Interpretive Memorandum for Election to the Grade of Full Member of the AMS
(Effective 20 January 2008)**

Individuals seeking to become full, voting Members of the AMS must meet certain professional and/or educational requirements. The AMS intends a broad and inclusive interpretation of these requirements, however, and welcomes professionals from throughout the weather and climate enterprise. The AMS Council has adopted this Interpretive Memorandum to clarify this intention.

The Society is open to all people interested in meteorology, climatology, or a related discipline through Associate Member status. The following interpretations apply only to election to the category of full Member.

The Constitution identifies four categories of criteria for election to Member, and an applicant must satisfy at least one of these categories.

- **Article III section 4 (A)** is intended to be interpreted broadly to include a wide range of Earth and other physical sciences that intersect in interdisciplinary ways with the atmospheric, oceanic, or hydrologic sciences.
- **Article III section 4 (B)** is intended to provide eligibility for a broad range of individuals whose professional activities further the goals of the Society. The Council believes that advances in the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services are highly dependent upon the cooperation and collaboration of individuals in other disciplines and therefore feels that a broad interpretation should be given to the meaning of "other sciences or engineering." The Council also believes that a liberal interpretation should be made in considering activities of an applicant related to the advancement or application of the atmospheric or related sciences to include disciplines that further the technology and applications based on or supporting those sciences, as well as economics and other social sciences, and other disciplines that support policy, applications, and services related to the Earth system. Individuals who are retired from or no longer employed in such activities should be considered for Member status as long as they intend to participate in the activities of the Society.
- **Article III Section 4 (C)** is intended to encourage membership for individuals without a professional degree satisfying the criteria in section (A) or (B) above, that have at least a minimal educational background in the underlying science and substantial experience in the field. The individual is expected to have undertaken a study program from an accredited institution or institutions that has provided a minimum fundamental knowledge in the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services. Military training in the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services that did not lead to a degree is appropriate to satisfy the criteria in this section. The requirements for three years of work experience in the last five years can be fulfilled by experience that requires independent analysis, interpretation, and professional judgment in the application of atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences.
- **Article III section 4 (D)** was designed to recognize that the fields of atmospheric and related sciences are becoming more complex and interdisciplinary; therefore, it is anticipated that individuals with unique backgrounds and research experiences will be applicants for Member status in AMS.