Lance, who is also a geology major, really likes that studying meteorology is teaching him about the earth’s systems. “In this field, you not only learn how those systems such as climate and the ocean have changed over time, you gain an understanding of how they interact with each other. That really interests me. I began by talking with my professors to learn about career opportunities and what happens in this field, and I discovered that there’s so much more to it than just becoming a weatherman, it’s a lot more in depth and it’s all very cool.”

In that initial course, Lance spent a month working on a project that he and his lab partner presented to the class. “We focused on how the circulation of the earth’s atmosphere controls the circulation of the oceans. We looked at where warm air and cold air masses go. It was really interesting and a great experience because there were only eight of us in that class, so we could all focus closely on the others’ presentations.”

One of the things that Lance values most about this new major is how complementary it is to other subject areas. “I took a course called Air Pollution and Policy, which was instructive regarding how I can use this degree. Eventually, I’ll be able to come at whatever issue with a solid scientific background and be a more effective advocate for the best policies.”

Eventually, Lance plans to attend grad school. He knows his grounding in meteorology will help him be a strong candidate because it’s giving him a holistic understanding of these physical phenomena.