Aviation Technology - Professional Pilot, BS

Emphases: Fixed Wing; Rotorcraft
Department: School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education
College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The aviation technology - professional pilot degree is designed for students who intend to pursue a career as an airline pilot, plan to fly for charter, commuter, or corporate airlines, or who wish to operate their own aviation-related business.

During freshman and sophomore years, students complete courses that develop general flying skills and provide a background in aviation. During junior and senior years, students spend the majority of time focused on improving flight skills and preparing for careers by taking courses in commercial certification, airline management, aviation law, and more. Over the course of their studies, students will complete approximately 200 to 250 hours of flight time.

Juniors and seniors in the major have the opportunity to compete for internships with Sky West Airlines, American Airlines, American Eagle, and others. Interns are selected by the airlines and spend one semester working off campus. They may be given the opportunity to fly jump-seat with current airline captains, fly training simulators, and gain first-hand experience with airline operations.

Career Options

With a degree in aviation technology - professional pilot, students can pursue careers as pilots in the following areas:

- Charter and regional airlines
- Commuter airlines
- Corporate flight departments
- Agricultural spray operations
- Military aviation
- Scenic tours
- EMS
- Aerial firefighting
- Wildlife study

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the aviation technology - professional pilot program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
- **Transfer Students:** Students transferring from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 to be accepted into the major.
- Proof of USA citizenship or TSA clearance is required prior to flight training.
- A medical examination conducted by an FAA-designated physician is required.

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

All seniors are required to propose and complete a research project dealing with a practical application of a problem encountered in flight or aviation maintenance technology.

All USU flight students are required to purchase and wear uniforms. Contact the program for more information on uniform requirements.

In addition to regular tuition and fees, flight fees are required for flight certification classes. The total for four years is approximately $47,000.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Air Line Pilots Association: ALPA is the largest airline pilot union in the world and represents pilots at 38 U.S. and Canadian airlines.

Women in Aviation, International: WAI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation career fields and interests. Membership includes astronauts, corporate pilots, maintenance technicians, air traffic controllers, business owners, educators, journalists, flight attendants, high school and university students, air show performers, airport managers, and many others. WAI also offers educational outreach programs to educators, aviation industry members, and young people nationally and internationally.

Alpha Eta Rho (USU Pilot Club): AHP is an international aviation fraternity. The purpose of AHP is to act as middle ground between students studying aviation at a university and the aviation industry.

Silver Wings: The purpose of Silver Wings is to provide service to the community, to provide leadership opportunities to members, and to act as a liaison between the Air Force and civilians. Students do not have to have any connection to the Air Force to join Silver Wings.

Society of Aviation Maintenance Professionals: SAMP is a student-run club available for all students interested in airplanes and understanding how they work. The club meets monthly to participate in skill-building projects, learn from guest speakers, and to learn about internship opportunities.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Logan Cache Airport: This airport has more than 26,000 square feet of hangar space to house a fleet of 16 modern aircrafts. It stores USU's 14 single-engine and two twin-engine aircrafts. The heart of the flight operation stands in the newly remodeled dispatch and pilot center at the airport, providing the latest electronic weather forecasting equipment for students. The flight simulation center and classrooms designed specifically for pilot training is also located at the Logan Cache Airport. The airport also provides modern aircraft for cutting-edge instruction in aircraft maintenance and repair.

Rocky Mountain NASA Space Grant Consortium: RMNSGC is one of 52 National Space Grant Consortia in the United States. As a member of the consortium, USU has awarded more than 100 fellowships to students interested in aerospace-related education and careers. The majority of Space Grant student awards include a mentored research experience with university faculty and NASA scientists, engineers, and technologists.

Space Dynamics Laboratory: SDL is known for sending 500+ successful experiments into space and brings in $54 million per year in revenue, the majority coming from grants, contracts, and appropriations. SDL's expertise in the development of sensors and calibration, small satellites and real-time intelligence has made it an internationally known organization in the space arena.