Aviation Technology
Associate of Science
2025-2026

General Areas of Service: There is a wide variety of opportunities for students graduating with an aviation degree. Some of the many possibilities available are employment as crop dusters, mission pilots, scenic pilots, firefighting pilots, charter pilots, mail and freight transporters, or traffic watch pilots.

Professional Training:
A high school diploma is necessary, and usually two to four years of college, specialized training, and pilot's certification are required. The amount of training and experience along with certification held will determine the type of job that an aviator will hold.

Job Outlook:
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Overall employment of airline and commercial pilots is projected to grow 4 percent from 2022 to 2032, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 16,800 openings for airline and commercial pilots are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. Employment of airline and commercial pilots is projected to grow as the demand for air travel increases. The post-pandemic expansion of hybrid and remote work arrangements is likely to increase demand for trips that combine business and personal travel, also known as "bleisure" travel, supporting employment demand for pilots. Continued demand for private chartered flights is expected to sustain job growth for commercial pilots." (See www.bls.gov)

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Canaday Technology Center
(509) 527-2712

Websites
Walla Walla University
University Bulletin

Aviation Program
Technology Department

Faculty
Chair
Rob Holm
Advisor
Shawn Dietrich

Professional Organizations
Federal Aviation Administration Career Opportunities

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Airline & Commercial Pilots

Earnings:
Earnings of aircraft pilots and flight engineers vary greatly depending on whether they work as airline or commercial pilots. Earnings also rely on factors such as rank, seniority, and the size and type of aircraft flown. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in May 2023 "the median annual wage for airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers was $219,140," while "the median annual wage for commercial pilots was $113,080." (See www.bls.gov)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 96 cr. See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete an associate's degree in Aviation Technology. Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Survey of Aviation (AVIA 140)	1
Private Pilot Lectures I (AVIA 151)	3
Private Pilot Flight Training I (AVIA 155)	2
Introduction to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
Air Traffic Control & Airspace (AVIA 125)	2
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Private Pilot Flight Training II (AVIA 156)	2
Private Pilot Lectures II (AVIA 152)	3
Introduction to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
+ Aircraft Systems & Basic Maintenance (AVIA 256)	4
General Studies Math	4
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Private Pilot Flight Training III (AVIA 157)	2
General Studies	14
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Instrument Pilot Lectures I (AVIA 271)	3
Instrument Flight Training (AVIA 275)	3
Aviation Human Factors (AVIA 270)	2
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
- Aviation Weather (AVIA 234)	2
Instrument Pilot Lectures II (AVIA 272)	3
Advanced Instrument Flight Training (AVIA 276)	3
Cross Country Flight (AVIA 277)	2
General Studies	6
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Advanced Cross-Country Flight (AVIA 325)	2
Commercial Pilot Lectures (AVIA 334)	4
Commercial Flight Training (AVIA 335)	3
Advance Commercial Flight Training (AVIA 336)	3
Mission/Humanitarian Flight Training (AVIA 337)	2
General Studies	2
Total	16

+ Offered even years only ***- Offered odd years only***

Office of Academic Advisement
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