Aviation

Aviation is a combination of many opportunities. A first thought of aviation might be of flying as a pilot in a commercial aircraft, but aviation is a global organization that also needs well-organized managers and professional pilots to design, manage, and operate the national and international aviation systems of the future. Aviation at Ohio State was started in 1917 and has produced many successful pilots and aviation managers.

Aviation is a high-technology, rapidly changing, competitive business operating in a global arena. Educated, professional managers are needed in over fifty career areas in the aviation industry. Transportation, economics and logistics, flight operations, and flight support are some of the many other positions that make up the exciting and challenging field of aviation.

Pursuing Aviation at Ohio State

Students interested in aviation should have a good background in math, physics, and written and verbal communication. Imagination and analytical thinking will help insure success.

Students can major in aviation in the College of Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences, or the Fisher College of Business. Applicants to the business or engineering programs must meet the competitive admission requirements established by the respective college.

Each college also has basic graduation requirements. Business requires students to complete the prerequisites of math, English, economics, computer science, and accounting. Engineering requires a strong math, physics, engineering graphics, and mechanics background.

Program Educational Objectives

• The aviation undergraduate curriculum is designed to give a student the foundation upon which careers can be made designing, managing, and operating tomorrow’s national and international aviation systems.
• Aviation is a high-technology, competitive industry, operating in a highly regulated structure. In order to provide the aviation student with an ability to deal with complex technical problems, the curriculum contains engineering science and analysis components. The foundation for the curriculum is the engineering freshman program. Students are encouraged to contact the department for additional information.
• Each student admitted to the program will be assigned an adviser who can provide personal guidance.
• The bachelor’s program is designed for students interested in an aviation program containing a strong engineering science and analysis component.

Aviation Requirements

Every student in Aviation must take eight aviation core courses:

• Introduction to the Aviation Industry, Aviation 2000
• The Private Pilot Fundamentals, Aviation 2100
• Aviation Communication, Aviation 2200
• Aircraft Performance and Weather, Aviation 2300
• Aviation Management and Marketing, Aviation 3000
• Aviation Regulations, Aviation 3200
• Aviation Human Factors and Safety, Aviation 3300
• Aviation Capstone, Aviation 4500

If entering the College of Business, the student will have additional finance, management, marketing, economics, and administration courses.

Beyond the aviation core, students are free to choose aviation and technical electives to complement their specific interests. Aviation electives include the full range of flight education, air transportation analysis and airport management. The aviation curriculum actively involves industry experts and professionals who regularly lecture and present their expertise.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Opportunities

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars Programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

The Honors and Scholars Programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. For more information, visit honors-scholars.osu.edu.

For more information, check these websites:

Aviation: aviation.osu.edu
College of Engineering: engineering.osu.edu
Fisher College of Business: fisher.osu.edu
The Ohio State University Airport: osuairport.org
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Career Prospects in Aviation

For every pilot in every aircraft there are at least ten other aviation professionals each contributing their expertise to the successful planning and operation of a flight. These professionals include airport managers, flight instructors, fixed base operators, air traffic controllers, government consultants, and members of regulatory bodies. Graduates of the aviation program may find careers at airlines and in fields such as corporate aviation, cargo aviation, flight support and planning, aviation support systems, and air transportation management.

The aviation industry also has many opportunities in research and development. Work is continually being done to analyze aviation and to determine what can be done to make it safer; to manage it more efficiently; and to develop new products and techniques.

Revised June 2013. For the most up-to-date information on the aviation program, please visit aviation.osu.edu.

Contact information:
Center for Aviation Studies | 1971 Neil Avenue, room 508
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1110 | (614) 292-2405