

SDSU Aviation
New Student Guide
Fall 2018



SDSU Aviation Mission

The Aviation Education Program at South Dakota State University is committed to preparing safe, innovative, professional aviation educators who enhance human potential through transdisciplinary, learner-centered education in South Dakota and beyond. We assure this by creating multiengine commercial pilots and instructors who are able to apply the general education core to the aviation profession.

Thank you for choosing SDSU Aviation to start your career. On behalf of the alumni, students, and aviation team, welcome to the South Dakota State University Aviation Program!

We are excited that you will be joining us and know that you probably have a few questions about aviation. Aviation, by its very nature, stands out a little differently than other university programs and courses. We want to make sure your training goes as smoothly, efficiently, and most importantly, as safely as possible. In order to make that happen, please take a little time to read about our program.

We are seeing tremendous growth in aviation this year-it is truly a great time to be in aviation! To help with the transition and student success, students majoring in aviation will start their flight training in their second year. Not to worry; you will still be done in four years; this just allows the best allocation of resources across the program and increases the chances of your success.

The following pages contain information about the medical certificate, financial aid, required documentation, and finally frequently asked questions. As a smaller aviation program, we try hard to be up front about expectations and give you the information that you need to be successful in your aviation career.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact any of the aviation team to assist you. Our contact information is located on the last page.

Welcome to the program,

Dr. Cody Christensen
Aviation Program Coordinator
SDSU Aviation
cody.christensen@sdstate.edu

1. AVIATION MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

An FAA Medical Certificate is required to operate an aircraft under the privileges of a pilot certificate. There are three different levels of certificates:

- First Class -for those who will be Airline Transport Pilots
- Second Class - for those who will be Commercial Pilots
- Third Class- for those who will only be Private Pilots

Please complete a 1st or 2nd class medical before enrolling in a flight course (usually the fall semester of your sophomore year)

There are many doctors approved to do aviation medicals around the area; however, many of them only do FAA exams on certain days of the month. If the examiner has a long wait, please try a different doctor. For most students, your medical will be good for most of the duration of your time here at SDSU. We suggest that you obtain a 2nd class medical at the beginning of your flight training so there are no surprises later on. The exam generally costs \$150-\$250. Aviation Medical Examiners (AME) are medical doctors that have additional training in aviation related medicine and may even be your family doctor, to find a list of qualified examiners please visit: <http://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/>.

Many conditions can limit your ability to obtain a FAA medical, including color blindness, driving violations, felonies, diabetes, medications, and other medical and/or legal limitations. If you have significant medical or legal problems that might pose an issue during your medical exam, please bring copies of medical or court records with you when you visit your Aviation Medical Examiner. Please note that alcohol and drug convictions (paying a fine or attending a court-required class is considered a conviction) will follow you into your aviation career. Professional pilots are held to a higher standard and we expect the same out of you!

Please visit <https://medxpress.faa.gov/> and fill out the pre-exam questionnaire that will help you navigate the medical process.

Please make sure to use your full name or the name that you have printed on your driver's license.

Aviation examiners can grant waivers to physical requirements for medical certificates on a limited basis. AME's are the final authority on what condition or medication may be an issue in obtaining a medical certificate. Waivers for most medical conditions will require that the application be forwarded to the FAA headquarters in Oklahoma City for review. The review process often takes months to complete. Therefore, we recommend students schedule an appointment with an AME to obtain a medical certificate as early as possible so that any delays do not affect your flight training. For more information and FAQ go to: https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/faq/

A valid medical certificate will be required for all students enrolled in AVIA 171 (flight course).

2. PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

The Transportation Security Administration requires that all students must provide documentation of their citizenship before they begin any flight training. These requirements are listed on the TSA website (www.flightschoolcandidates.gov) and should be closely read and followed because of ongoing changes.

If you are a United States Citizen:

You must provide one of the following items to our Chief of Flight Instructor (Dan Moerke) to prove your US citizenship:

1. Valid unexpired U.S. Passport
2. Original birth certificate of the United States, and government-issued picture ID.(most common)
3. Original certification of birth abroad with raised seal (Form FS-545 or DS-1350) and government-issued picture ID.
4. Original certificate of U.S. Citizenship with raised seal (Form N-560 or N-561), or a Certificate of Repatriation (Form N-581), and government-issued picture ID.
5. Original U.S. naturalization certificate with raised seal (Form N-550 or N-570) and government-issued picture ID.

Most students use a certified or original birth certificate to fulfill this requirement. **A certified copy means it is state issued and has a stamp or raised seal on it. It cannot be a photocopy, fax, or a commemorative certificate.*

We only need to view it once a semester so once we view it; we will record the information and give it back to you for safekeeping.

If you are a Resident Alien (green-card holder) or a visa holder: Non-U.S. citizens are encouraged to contact the SDSU Aviation Program as soon as possible to ensure there is not a delay in flight training. Dan Moerke will provide you with detailed instructions on completing the proof of citizenship requirement. You must notify the Transportation Security Administration of your intent to begin flight training at www.flightschoolcandidates.gov. For more information please see: http://www.aopa.org/tsa_rule/index.html.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, the process can take up to several months, so please start early! This needs to happen no later than 30 days PRIOR to the start of the semester. If this is not completed at least 30 days prior to the start of the semester, you will be asked to drop the course and begin next year.

If you have any questions concerning TSA requirements, please contact Dan Moerke for assistance at (605) 688-5871 or Daniel.Moerke@sdstate.edu.

For each flight, you are required to carry a valid government issued identification card with you. This usually entails a driver's license, state issued identification card, or military issued identification card.

3. FINANCIAL AID

SDSU Financial Aid Office
Enrollment Services Center Box 511A
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605.688.4695

Email: sdsu.finaid@sdstate.edu
<http://www.sdstate.edu/admissions/financing/index.cfm>

Aviation is an investment in you! With that in mind, you need to have your finances in place **BEFORE** you start your flight training so you can complete each rating on time. Please talk to the Financial Aid office in order to receive the most up to date information. From the time you submit a completed application, it usually takes 14 days to get your funding in hand, so it is imperative that you start the process early! If you are using funding from your military service, please inform your advisor during the orientation process, as there a few changes to your program of study.

Students are responsible for paying for their flight training and any additional reporting requirements are the students' responsibility. Not having the proper amount of money available is the single biggest detractor to flight training at SDSU-*please be prepared financially when starting the aviation program.*

Please pay special attention to any restrictions, qualifications, or criteria set by your funding source (such as the Veterans Administration, athletic scholarships, ROTC scholarships, academic scholarships, or loans). If your funding source sets specific criteria on your training, please let the flight training coordinator know so that we can adjust your flight training.

Financing Aviation 101:

Most aviation students pay for the additional expense of flight training by first completing the FAFSA available through the SDSU Financial Aid website. From there, money is usually obtained in the following order:

1. Scholarships
2. Grants
3. Personal savings/family help
4. Federal subsidized loans
5. Federal unsubsidized loans
6. Alternative educational loans through private companies.

Federal vs. Private Student Loans:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vCr1SWNKj8>

Private Student Loans: A Guide to Proper Use of Private College Loans: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ez_y9LnS5Qg

The typical plan for most aviation students is to complete the FAFSA form, take out all the subsidized and unsubsidized loans, then apply for alternative loans. Stafford loans are provided to students and are limited to the following: \$5,500 PER YEAR for freshman, \$6,500 PER YEAR for sophomores and \$7,500 PER YEAR for juniors and seniors (see financial aid for updated information). These are loans that are provided to students with no co-sign needed. In order to receive Stafford loan money the student must be enrolled at least ½ time (six credits or more). Students may apply for additional money through parental loans or alternative education loans- both of which are loans that need a co-signer. There are various lenders for these type loans and information may be obtained through the SDSU financial aid office located in the Student Services Center on Medary Ave. Almost all alternative loans require a credit-worthy co-signer in addition to the student. Additional information about these loans is available at: <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/347100/1>.

Each flight course includes fees to pay for approximately 60% of your flying for each semester and are paid up front as part of your tuition and fees payment. Please be prepared to pay for the remaining training immediately after each flight.

Once you use all your balance associated with the fee attached to each course, you will pay as you go for each flight using Hobo Dough campus debit system.

Students are required to pay for each flight/ground session immediately at the end of the lesson. We do not allow any negative accounts. Students are required to have the flight course money available to them by the end of the first week of class. It is most advantageous to apply for student loans, either individual or co-signed, as far in advance as possible. Not applying for the financial aid in time will delay flight training and may result in you being dropped from your flight courses.

It is the students' responsibility to maintain money in their account so that training delays do not occur. If funds are not available to fly, the student will be taken off the master schedule for the semester and will have to reschedule all flights once funding is replenished. This will create a break in training and will generally result in extra costs and lost flight time. Please work with the Financial Aid office to make sure you have funds available to fly.

If you do run low on flight training funds, please see the Chief Flight Instructor or the program coordinator well in advance of when you anticipate needing additional funding and we can help work with financial aid to increase your budget.

Payment for flight courses

The student is responsible for ensuring they have sufficient funds for the flight BEFORE they fly the lesson. At SDSU, students use an online Hobo Dough debit system to pay for costs associated with flight activities once the course fee runs out. Students will pay for each flight once the airplane is checked back in at the desk. Students will do this by way of their student ID card (Hobo Dough) issued by SDSU Card Services. On average, each flight costs approximately \$250 for the airplane, fuel, instructor, and ground training. Students can transfer money onto their Hobo Dough card online at

<http://www.sdstate.edu/administration/finance/cs/index.cfm>.

Flight Course Refund policy

If a student withdraws from a flight course, only the unused portion of the flight fee will be refunded after all applicable bills have been paid in full and then only through a petition process. If you find yourself in a circumstance that might affect your ability to finish a flight course, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor and advisor to come up with a solution. Communication is key in our program!

Course Fee vs. actual average cost for each course

Semester	Course Fee charged when you enroll in the course and included in your tuition and fees	Additional amount it takes the average student to complete	Average Cost for each course (Use this fee for planning)
AVIA 171	\$7,945	\$4,565	\$12,510
AVIA 181	\$7,183	\$5,457	\$12,640
AVIA 372	\$9,859	\$5,760	\$15,619
AVIA 377	\$11,253	\$10,835	\$22,088
AVIA 474	\$2,360	\$3,108	\$5,468
AVIA 475	\$7,355	\$2,890	\$10,245

*Expect to pay the average cost

Individual cost per hour (average included in flight costs above)

Aircraft	Rate for FY19
Cessna - C172- Skyhawk	\$189.00
Piper - PA28R-201 - Arrow III	\$194.00
Piper - PA44 - 180 - Seminole	\$295.00
Cessna - C172- Skyhawk Instruction	\$65.00
Piper - PA28R-201 - Arrow III Instruction	\$70.00
Piper - PA44 - 180 - Seminole Instruction	\$70.00
Basic Aviation Training Device (BATD)	\$25.00
Advanced Aircraft Training Device (AATD)	\$85.00
Basic Aviation Training Device (BATD) Instruction	\$65.00
Advanced Aircraft Training Device (AATD) Instruction	\$65.00
Pre/Post Instruction	\$65.00
Ground Instruction (including Pre/Post)	\$65.00

Average total expenses of aviation students

Semester	SDSU Costs	Aviation Costs
	Tuition, fees, books, housing, meal plan	Airplane, fuel, instructor, checkrides, and aviation materials
Fall 2018	\$8,415	No additional flight expenses
Spring 2019	\$8,415	No additional flight expenses
Fall 2019	\$8,415	\$12,510 (AVIA 171)
Spring 2020	\$8,415	\$12,640 (AVIA 181)
Fall 2020	\$8,415	\$15,619 (AVIA 372)
Spring 2021	\$8,415	\$22,088 (AVIA 377)
Fall 2021	\$8,415	\$5,468 (AVIA 474)
Spring 2022	\$8,415	\$10,245 (AVIA 475)
Total Expenses	\$67,320	\$78,570
Total average cost for a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation-Aviation Education Specialization		\$145,890
<p>* This formula is for an average in-state resident progressing at the normal rate-not considering inflation. For additional information please see: www.sdstate.edu/admissions/financing for an updated Undergraduate Cost Estimate</p>		

Academic Standing Policy

As South Dakota's only Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI)-accredited aviation flight program, The SDSU Aviation Program is committed to providing a safe, cost-effective program. Being a smaller program allows us to be involved with many of the students in a way that you will not find at larger schools. The goal of the whole aviation team is to provide the best level of service with the resources at our disposal to provide the best education possible for the students.

In order to provide a high standard of training, all SDSU Aviation majors must maintain good academic standing in order to maintain status as an aviation major. In order to remain in good standing, a student must maintain a 2.00 GPA, have a current medical certificate, and not have a negative flight account balance. What this means is your first year at SDSU is about demonstrating that you can be successful in the college environment so that when we add in the flight courses (and expenses associated with the classes) you will be successful. Consistent and satisfactory progress in flight training is also required to maintain in good standing. If a student allows long periods between flights or regularly cancels flights, they are not consistent. If the student is unprepared for ground or flight training, or does not follow the rules and procedures in place, they are not performing satisfactorily.

Our attendance policy in the flight syllabus sets reasonable limits in order to afford the student the best opportunity to finish the flight training in three years and the aviation degree in four years. Occasionally there will be unforeseen circumstances that hinder progress. Communication is vital to ensure all parties are aware of what is going on. The success of the SDSU Aviation Program depends upon the combined efforts and dedication of both the students and the Aviation Team.

Technology requirements

SDSU Aviation highly encourages all incoming students to purchase at least a 16GB Apple iPad, iPad Mini or other tablet device for use both in the academic classroom and in the flight

courses. The SDSU Bookstore located in the Student Union sells iPads or you may choose one from another source. For more information please visit <http://www.apple.com/ipad/>. SDSU does have adequate computers for students to use located throughout campus; however, many of our students find it helpful to purchase a personal computer. All SDSU Aviation academic courses and flight courses utilize web based applications and programs. Many of the course books and applications are web-based and free from the FAA which will offset the cost of the iPad or other device over the course of four years. Most tablets will work fine, the Aviation faculty all use iPads and we have resources to troubleshoot the devices here on campus.

Transferring in FAA ratings/certificates

Credit MAY be awarded for FAA Private Pilot Certificate earned *prior* to enrollment through the Credit by Exam process. However, once a student enrolls in the SDSU Aviation Program, all subsequent flight training must be accomplished at SDSU, with SDSU aircraft and instructors. The process of earning credit towards graduation begins with the presentation of original and valid FAA-issued pilot certificates and/or ratings to the Chief of Flight Operations prior to the start of any flight training at SDSU. Once that is complete, the Chief Flight Instructor will conduct an evaluation flight to assess the skills of the transferring pilot. The Chief Flight Instructor will determine if the student possesses the required flight and ground ability consistent with the certificate or rating requested to transfer in AND believes the student is proficient enough to proceed with the next flight rating or certificate, credit will be awarded.

Credit for that experience will be added to the student's transcript upon the completion of the instrument rating at SDSU.

Flight rating credit only applies to students seeking an aviation education degree and will not be used toward the completion of the aviation minor or other degree. While every flight hour counts towards your total time and experience, SDSU generally will not award any credit for incomplete ratings and certificates. If you are

close to completing a checkride, it is best to finish the rating before you enroll in the flight courses.

If you are planning to complete any flight certificates or ratings, please talk to Dr. Cody Christensen (cody.christensen@sdstate.edu) before you start training. Due to recent FAA regulations, not completing all flight training with SDSU could hinder your job prospects for those intending to work for the airlines.

Generally, only the Private Pilot certificate is transferable into the Aviation Education Degree Program.

Transferring aviation specific courses

The university and/or department reserves the right to deny credits in transfer which are: (1) not consistent with the mission and charter of the granting institution; (2) not approved for transfer based on the evaluation of this university; or 3) not accredited by a regional accreditation association, e.g., North Central Association.

Credit will be considered for transfer only from the institution actually granting the credit. Transfer credit will not be granted for remedial work. Typically, you must have passed an FAA flight test to qualify to transfer that credit into SDSU.

Students completing a Bachelors in Science degree with a specialization in Aviation Education AND complete their instrument and commercial certificates at SDSU are qualified for the Restricted Airline Transport Pilot (R-ATP) certificate. This certificate allows for students who choose to go to the airlines to fly as a pilot after gaining 1,000 total hours of flight time, instead of 1,500 hours for non-graduates.

All transfer credit must be evaluated prior to the first semester enrolled. Any aviation specific credits transferred in can and may affect your ability to qualify for the R-ATP certificate.

Flight instruction

Almost all flight instruction accomplished for credit toward the SDSU Aviation education degree is conducted under 14CFR Part 141 (FAA Flight School). To train under part 61, students must

receive per rating/certificate permission from the Chief Flight Instructor and then only with certain stipulations.

Minimum flight requirements for the aviation education major include:

1. Private Pilot,
2. Instrument Rating,
3. Commercial Pilot Single-engine,
4. Commercial Pilot Multi-engine
5. Flight Instructor,
6. Flight Instructor-Instrument,
7. Multiengine Flight Instructor.

Any ratings beyond the Private Pilot that you do not earn at SDSU will make you ineligible for the Reduced Airline Transport Pilot Certificate. While we encourage students to gain as many flight hours and aviation experiences as possible, all flight instruction used to fulfill degree requirements will be conducted in SDSU aircraft/training devices and with SDSU instructors; private aircraft will not be used.

Incomplete grades

If for some reason you are not able to finish your flight course in the semester enrolled you **MUST** work with your on campus professor to develop a plan of action. Only if students make normal progress in the course are allowed to be issued a grade of INCOMPLETE. At that point, you will have one semester to finish the flight course. If you take no action at the end of the semester enrolled you will be issued a failing grade and will be required to retake and most importantly repay the full course fee.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Aviation Program

Tell me a little bit about the Aviation Program.

We are the premier Aviation Program in South Dakota and train more students here at South Dakota State University than everywhere else in the state combined! Our Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation with a specialization in Aviation Education is

designed to make sure you are ready to for the aviation industry when you graduate college. You will complete seven Federal Aviation Administration flight tests resulting in earning your single and multi-engine commercial certificate with instrument ratings. Additionally, you will earn your Certificated Flight Instructor (CFI), Certificated Flight Instructor Instrument (CFII), and your Multiengine Flight Instructor (MEI) certificate- all before your senior year! We believe that regardless of your career path in aviation, you will be on a path of continuous improvement where you will be in a position of learning or you will be teaching others how to do better.

How do I learn more or come for a visit?

If you would like to schedule a visit and tour our aviation facility, please talk to our Admissions office and let them know you are interested in aviation, they will schedule a personalized visit just for you! If you have a specific question or need more information, contact Dr. Christensen at 605-688-4983 or cody.christensen@sdstate.edu.

I want to fly, now what do I need to do?

Great, you started at the right spot! The first step is to apply to South Dakota State University and talk with our awesome Admissions staff, which can help guide you through the process. www.sdstate.edu/visit

Are you accredited/how do I know you are providing adequate training?

The B.S. in Aviation- Aviation Education Specialization at SDSU is the ONLY Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) accredited program in the state. AABI accreditation means that SDSU has met standards set by top ranked peer institutions and produces graduates ready to enter the aviation profession.

What about the R-ATP?

SDSU is certified as a **R**estricted **A**irline **T**ransport **P**ilot program. What that means is that if you graduate with a BS in Aviation-Specialization in Aviation Education you will be qualified to go to

the airlines with 1,000 total hours instead of 1,500 if you did flight training on your own.

I want to be a pilot, why aviation education?

Throughout your career in aviation you will be learning, evaluating, or teaching aviation. We want to position you so you are ready for the aviation profession. Almost 95% of all regional airline pilots are flight instructors before they are hired by the airlines.

Becoming a flight instructor is one of the best, most versatile, recession proof certificates in aviation.

I am a new freshman and I do not get to fly this year?

Correct, however, our flight program is designed to be completed in three years so essentially you will be taking non-flight aviation courses along with general education courses your first year so that in your second year you are well-prepared to start flight training.

How much does it cost?

Most students spend about \$145,000 for a Bachelor of Science in Aviation-Aviation Education degree. This includes approximately half for the SDSU degree (tuition/fees, room and board, etc.) and the other half for flight-related expenses (airplane, flight instruction, fuel, flight tests, etc.)

Wow that is expensive! What is my Return on Investment (ROI)?

If you progress through the program as stated and fly for a regional airline for three years, you could just use your BONUS to pay off all your aviation loans, and after five years, you could have all your student loans paid off. It is not uncommon for graduates ten years after graduation to be making well over \$100,000 per year. Here is another way to look at it:

<http://www.brownaviationlease.com/infographics/>

What kind of aircraft will we fly?

We have five Cessna Skyhawk 172's, Piper Arrows, and a Piper Seminole along with three Aviation Training Devices (ATD's).

Why do flight courses only cover about 60% of the training?

The flight course fees are designed to make sure that you start out with enough money on your account to get you through about half the semester. This allows for flexibility based on your needs and does not limit what aircraft you fly based on your outcomes. For instance, you may want to fly more in the simulator (least expensive) where another student might want to do some flight time in the twin-engine aircraft (most expensive). By only requiring about 60% of the flight course up front it also allows students more options while waiting for a loan check to come in or a scholarship to take effect. Flexibility is key with this policy!

Are there scholarships available?

Yes, there are a few freshman scholarships available that are awarded through the Admissions Office. Once in the program, we offer about 4-10 scholarships per year. Make sure to apply for the scholarships each year through MyStateOnline.

Are there jobs when I graduate?

Yes; there are many entry level jobs available to graduates, especially good flight instructors. Check out Boeing's prediction for jobs: <http://www.boeing.com/commercial/market/long-term-market/pilot-and-technician-outlook/>. We are seeing a huge growth in the job market and many of our students have job offers before they graduate. In 2016 and 2017 we placed all graduates in aviation positions- many before they graduated.

What books will I need to start the program?

Plan on spending about \$350-\$1,200 for a headset and about \$100 for the books to get you started. During the first week of school in *AVIA 170- Introduction to Flight Theory*, we will talk more in depth on exactly what is needed for each flight rating. If you are really ahead of the game and would like to get the required

materials before the semester starts you may go to the Brookings airport and buy the AVIA 170 kit from Pheasants Fury Aviation. Each flight rating/certificate requires specific software and materials.

I already have some flight time, will you accept it?

This is usually handled on a case by case basis. Please bring your logbook when you come to New Student Orientation. Generally, we will accept your Private Pilot certificate only. Most students have no or very little experience piloting an aircraft. We would prefer to start you out from the beginning at SDSU.

Should I buy my own airplane to do flight training in?

No, all training for the degree needs to be completed through the SDSU Aviation Program.

How will I know when I fly and what courses I will take?

When you come to New Student Orientation in the summer, you will work with an advisor to develop a class. Once you come to campus, you will work with Nicole Gertken through the First Year Advising Center. Then you will work with Dr. Carla Anderson, our professional aviation advisor, until you graduate.

How often will I fly?

All aviation students in a flight course can expect to fly three times per week and each flight block lasts approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. The flight lab is just like any other lab course on campus in that you need to complete the required activities, at the required time. Plan on spending at least two hours at the airport, three times per week for AVIA 171 (your flight lab). The flight schedule is posted two weeks before the start of each semester.

Should I get a job while in school?

It is a great idea, but try not to work more than about 15 hours a week. It is probably best to start out with working just a few hours

per week until you get the hang of balancing college life, flying, and academics. We do have some positions at the airport to help with fueling, desk operations, and light cleaning. Additional on and off-campus jobs are available through our career development office.

Do I need a new computer?

No, there are computers on campus but it is like having a car: it is a convenience factor. We suggest an iPad or other device because the charts and books that we use are mostly available for free online. There is not any special software that is required for aviation.

Is aviation safe?

At SDSU Aviation, safety is paramount in all that we do. From the classroom to the airport and everywhere in between, everyone is responsible for ensuring we operate as safely as possible in every aspect of our training. If any individual student has safety concerns or questions, we are dedicated to providing open communication and resolution of the concern or question. Here is a link to our online anonymous safety reporting system:

<http://sdsusafetyreport.questionpro.com/>

What can you do with an SDSU Aviation Education degree?

Most aviation employment requires FAA certification in addition to a college degree. A bachelor's degree combined with specific experience allows an individual to move into the jobs, which pay the higher salaries and include management openings. We require three FAA flight instructor certificates before graduating because the majority of students spend time flight instructing as the first job out of college and we want to make sure you are as prepared as possible when you graduate. For more information about if a four year degree is worth it check out some research that Dr. Christensen was a part of: www.pilotsourcestudy.org

What is the typical salaries for SDSU grads?

Your first year after graduation will probably be flight instructing where you can expect to make about \$25,000 to \$30,000.

However, once you gain experience and flight time, your salary your first year at an airline, which happens about one year after graduation will be about \$65,000. Five years into your profession: \$75,000 to \$85,000 is fairly typical and ten years into your profession you can expect to make \$90,000-\$120,000.

How long will it take me to graduate with a BS in Aviation degree?

We want you done with your degree in four years or less! In order to make that happen, you will need to average 15 credits per semester. If you do decide to double major or minor, as well as other factors, could lengthen your time at SDSU. Typically, students graduate in four years and work another 3 to 12 months as a flight instructor until they build their total flight time to 1,000 and go directly to a regional airline.

How can I get the most out of my college experience?

1. Find an aviation mentor
2. Join aviation student organization like the SDSU Flying Jacks
3. Participate in an internship
4. Acquire aviation experience
5. Engage in part-time aviation-related work
6. Use electives to broaden yourself to alternate careers
7. Develop professional affiliations
8. Add another major or minor
9. Maintain a good GPA
10. Start seeking positions at least one year prior to graduation
11. Develop a professional resume and cover letter
12. Make extensive use of online/internet resources
13. Develop your leadership/organizational skills
14. Do not get behind with your flying! Make up any missed lessons ASAP!

Do I have to fly in the summer or over breaks?

Our curriculum is designed so that you do not HAVE to fly in the summer, but that is only if you complete all the required flight training in the semester enrolled. This takes a lot of work and you

must commit to making up flights if they are weathered out or for illness or other reasons. Many of our students do have to stick around and fly for a month or more after the semester ends; please prepare for training delays due to unpredictable South Dakota weather.

What happens if I do not finish a flight course in the semester enrolled?

There are a number of factors that play into completing a flight course on-time such as weather, sickness, aircraft availability, flight instructor availability, etc. If a flight course is not completed in the semester enrolled, you might have the option of an incomplete grade and have one semester to finish the course. However you will not be allowed to move on to the next flight course until the prerequisite is complete- which would delay your graduation.

Can athletes or ROTC students major in aviation?

Of course, well-disciplined, hardworking students are always welcome. We will work hard to accommodate schedules and assignments. As with any student, it is up to you to “own,” your education but it is very doable to be a student-athlete while involved in aviation.

Is training hard/intense?

We want our students to have every opportunity to succeed in life; college is one of the steps to get you to what you really want to do. In order for us to be successful, and keep a safe, low cost program, we need you to do your part and train effectively and efficiently. You can ask any student and they will say that it is difficult to get in all the flying in the semester enrolled, however, it is doable if you are determined to make it happen.

The FAA estimated the total cost of a one-year delay in an airline pilot's career to be about \$130,000. What this means that if you delay your course of study, or take a year off from flying, you will lose out on approximately \$130,000 of income potential. We take this very seriously and have designed our curriculum to be both

challenging and academically appropriate so that when the time is right, you can seize the right opportunities.

Do you guarantee jobs after graduation?

No, however we feel that if you make it through our program, you should be a well-rounded flight instructor and very employable. We do not guarantee a job but typically students do flight instruct for SDSU before or right after graduation. In addition, this is a great way to give back to the program in terms of service, knowledge, and expertise. We are all in this together and the stronger our flight instructor team is, the stronger we all are!

Does SDSU partner with any airlines/companies?

We do not have any formal partnerships with any airlines because we feel at this time they do not benefit the student as much as they do the airlines. This comes on the advice of our Industry Advisory Board who is made up of airline and aviation professionals.

How do I get to the airport?

[201 West 2nd Street SW, Brookings, SD 57006.](#)

Students must have a vehicle/ other reliable means of transportation to the airport for flight courses, ground instruction, etc. SDSU Aviation highly recommends each aviation student have their own reliable vehicle transportation. The airport is two miles from campus, with a travel time of 6-10 minutes. Public transportation is available through Brookings Area Transit Authority: <http://www.brookingsareatransit.com/>.

I would like to learn more or I still have questions?

We are here to help! For specific questions, please contact Dr. Cody Christensen at cody.christensen@sdstate.edu or if you would like to set up tour of SDSU, talk to an Admissions representative, and schedule a visit with an aviation faculty member, please visit www.sdstate.edu/admissions and they can help you.

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