

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Lane Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Professional Pilot within 49.0102 Airline/Commercial/Professional Pilot and Flight Crew.

Summary:

Lane Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Professional Pilot. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the degree as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following degree: AAS in Aviation Professional Pilot.



Lane Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Professional Pilot.

Program Summary

This program provides students training, certificates, and ratings needed to start a career as a commercial pilot. Students will receive the following:

- Private Pilot Certificate
- Instrument Rating
- Commercial Pilot Certificate
- Multi Engine Rating
- Certified Flight Instructor Certificate/Rating (CFI, CFII)

1. Describe the need for this program by providing clear evidence.

Rationale for Replacing Current Flight Program:

LCC Aviation Academy (LCCAA) currently operates a flight program. The current program structure is designed under restrictive FAA regulations. These regulations hinder student progress, increase student cost, and are financially unsustainable for LCC. The current degree also does not require all FAA certificates and ratings required for a successful aviation career. Changes to the degree include: Increased flight hours due to Academy restructuring under new government regulations.

Addition of Multi-Engine, Flight Instructor and Instrument Flight Instructor to align LCCAA with industry and other community colleges. LCCAA currently offers this training but it is considered optional for the degree. By requiring these items students will be able to use financial aid benefits for this training.

Modification of flight training from lecture to labs to better align credits to Lane and industry standards.

Provide the ability for students to maintain 12 credits per term, regardless of flight progression. This gives students the ability to maintain financial aid.

Reduce degree credits to 91.

Labor Market Analysis

Attached documents provide valid and reliable data describing the current pilot shortage. A mass exodus of retirees, increased demand in air travel, and new regulations has led to an increased demand for pilots and pilot training centers. United States Air Force leadership has referred to the shortage as a National Crisis. The attached Boeing Pilot & Technical Outlook report estimates 804,000 new pilots needed world wide and 212,000 in North America over the next 20 years. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports Airline and Commercial Pilots job outlook was 5% higher than average in 2019.

Existing Programs

Important Note: Lane Community College (LCC) is already operating a flight program, which will be suspended. This new degree program is required to realign LCC's academics with student and industry needs. Academy enrollments were up 15% year over year (YOY) pre-COVID, and up an additional 16% YOY for the Fall term 2020-2021 academic year.

There are four other community college flight programs in the State of Oregon: Portland Community College (PCC), Central Oregon Community College (COCC), Klamath Falls Community College (KFCC), and Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC). Many of these programs are at or near capacity. The COCC flight program has been running a 1-year waitlist. By implementing this new program LCC will be competitive with other institutions.

Wages

Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Occupation: Aircraft Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers (SOC code 532011)

National Annual Wages:

10th Percentile - \$74,100

25th Percentile - \$99,090

75th Percentile - >\$208,000

90th Percentile - >\$208,000

Median - \$147,220

Oregon Annual Wages: (State of Oregon Employment Department)

10th Percentile - \$0.00

25th Percentile - \$0.00

75th Percentile - \$0.00

90th Percentile - \$0.00

Median - \$222,002

2. ***Does the community college utilize systemic methods for meaningful and ongoing involvement of the appropriate constituencies?***

Continuous conversations have been held with LCCAA faculty, classified, and leadership staff. Lane Community College's Aviation Academy (LCCAA) has had ongoing discussions with advisory committees, industry partners, and government agencies.

LCCAA's Flight Technology advisory committee meets annually. At the February 2020 meeting the committee discussed changes to the current degree program, personnel and equipment changes to meet that need, and the need to add additional members to the committee.

LCCAA has also had communications with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) and Horizon/Alaska Air's Pilot Development Program approving of our modification from Part 141 to Part 61 training.

3. ***Is the community college program aligned with appropriate education, workforce development, and economic development programs?***

Student learning outcomes/proficiencies are aligned with industry and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. Students receive the following FAA Certificates and Ratings:

- Private Pilot Certificate
- Instrument Rating
- Commercial Pilot Certificate
- Multi-Engine Rating
- Certified Flight Instructor Certificate (CFI)
- Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Certificate (CFII)

These certificates and rating provide students all the tools necessary to obtain employment as a flight instructor and gain hours required for airlines and other pilot positions. LCCAA is also partnered with Horizon/Alaska Air's Pilot Development Program, which provides students with job offers and financial assistance.

Career pathways include: Flight instruction, airlines, corporate, cargo, survey, and much more.

Students may use transfer credit or receive credit for prior learning. The three primary examples include:

--Transfers: Students may transfer from other institutions or programs and receive credit for similar courses. For example Aircraft Systems and Advance Systems at Central Oregon Community College (COCC) could be used to satisfy LCCAA's Systems & Structures 1 & 2.

--Industry Certifications: If a student enters the program with industry certifications or ratings, they can receive credit for prior learning and satisfy a number of courses that relate to that specific certificate or rating.

--Previous Flight Training without Certificates or Ratings: If a student enters with prior flight training but no industry certificates or ratings a chief instructor or Director of the program may review the students log books and training information to apply toward LCCAA flight labs.

The Director of LCCAA is continuing to work on alignment with high schools, industry partners, and other 4-year universities.

4. ***Does the community college program lead to student achievement of academic and technical knowledge, skills, and related proficiencies?***

This program leads to student achievement of academic and technical knowledge related to a commercial pilot. This program concludes with all FAA certificate and ratings required to become flight instructors and build hours to the airlines.

Students must obtain a 1st or 2nd Class FAA Medical Certificate. VA Students must obtain and maintain a 1st Class Medical Certificate.

Students must go through a series of steps to apply to the program to verify citizenship, TSA authorizations, airport badging, and advising.

To receive industry certificates and ratings, students must pass multiple FAA written tests and check rides. Check rides consist of an oral and flight evaluation with the FAA or a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE). FAA written tests must be passed with a minimum score of 70%. To be eligible to take an FAA written students must receive a passing grade in that corresponding ground school and receive an endorsement from that flight instructor.

Course material is in alignment with FAA regulations and industry standards. Program updates and alignment verifications are continuous and greatly dictated by FAA regulations.

Students take academic courses such as business, critical thinking, and learning theories while taking technical labs such as flights, simulators, and avionics.

Courses are designed to take students through the process of earning the certificates required to start a career as a professional pilot. Certificates and ratings include:

- Private Pilot Certificate
- Instrument Rating
- Commercial Pilot Certificate
- Multi-Engine Add-on
- Flight instructor Certificate with Instrument.

5. ***Does the community college identify and have the resources to develop, implement, and sustain the program?***

Note:

LCC Aviation Academy (LCCAA) currently operates a flight program. As a result this report will only address changes to the institution's operation.

Financial Analysis:

LCCAA's Flight Technology (FT) program annual 3-year averages:

Revenue \$905,828

Deficit \$148,426

The new degree program will reduce the annual deficit by an estimated \$100,000-120,000 through restructuring under Federal Aviation Regulations Part 61, improving classroom utilization, and increasing enrollments.

Faculties/Equipment:

All facilities and equipment are in place.

Assurances

Lane Community College has met or will meet the four institutional assurances required for program application.

1. *Access.* The college and program will affirmatively provide access, accommodations, flexibility, and additional/supplemental services for special populations and protected classes of students.
2. *Continuous Improvement.* The college has assessment, evaluation, feedback, and continuous improvement processes or systems in place. For the proposed program, there will be opportunities for input from and concerning the instructor(s), students, employers, and other partners/stakeholders. Program need and labor market information will be periodically re-evaluated and changes will be requested as needed.
3. *Adverse impact and detrimental duplication.* The college will follow all current laws, rules, and procedures and has made good faith efforts to avoid or resolve adverse *intersegmental* and *intrasegmental* impact and detrimental duplication problems with other relevant programs or institutions.
4. *Program records maintenance and congruence.* The college acknowledges that the records concerning the program title, curriculum, CIP code, credit hours, etc. maintained by the Office are the official records and it is the college's responsibility to keep their records aligned with those of the Office. The college will not make changes to the program without informing and/or receiving approval from the Office.