



OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AVIATION PROGRAM

Program Overview

Ozarks Technical Community College offers an aviation-focused associate degree. In October 2016, OTC entered into an agreement with Premier Flight Center LLC, the first step in enabling OTC to offer a degree focused on aviation. Further approvals have been received from the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the Higher Learning Commission, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Premier operates as a Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 141 flight school, as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). North Star Aviation out of Minnesota owns Premier Flight Center, a Missouri-based LLC, and operates a flight school in Minnesota along with a satellite location in Bowling Green, Ohio. Premier Flight Center LLC owns and maintains planes for the program; OTC is responsible for the program curriculum.

Graduates of OTC's program will be prepared to work as a commercial pilot for hire and ready for a variety of opportunities. An Airline Transport Pilot certificate is required to captain a jet aircraft or scheduled air carrier (airlines). To obtain this certification you will need to build experience with a commercial pilot's license. Regional airlines generally do not require a bachelor's degree unlike most major airlines which do require a four-year degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do classes start?

- Classes begin each semester

How long are the classes?

- Ground classes are semester-long, 16 weeks.
- Lab (flight) classes are 18 weeks to meet the required amount of flight time, which is subject to aircraft scheduling, student preparation, and weather conditions.

Are the classes during the day or in the evening?

- Classes are offered based on student need and may include evening hours.

Will some courses be online?

- All general education courses are available online as well as seated. Some aviation classes will likely be offered online as the program matures. We do not foresee online aviation courses before January 2020.
- Lab courses will not be offered online.

Where are classes held? Airport? OTC?

- Premier Flight Center, LLC will teach flight training at the former Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal, 5000 West Kearney Street, Suite 110.
- In Lebanon, flight classes occur at Floyd W Jones Airport, 2415 S. Jefferson Avenue, Lebanon, Missouri.
- All non-flight aviation classes will be taught by OTC instructors at the OTC Springfield campus, and Lebanon Center or online.

Are there any special admission requirements for this major?

- After a student applies to OTC, several special items are needed:
 - All flight lab students must pass a flight physical with an FAA designated Aviation Medical Examiner [AME]; in 2019 this exam cost \$175.
 - Before beginning classes, OTC will work with students to request/receive a Student Pilot Certificate [valid for 24 months]
 - A valid driver's license is required
 - The Department of Homeland Security requires certain documents for pilots. Students will need:
 - A valid driver's license **AND** official birth certificate with raised seal **OR** United States Passport for Transportation Security Administration verification purposes.
 - Non-US citizens will need to undergo Transportation Security Administration (TSA) processing.

What are the lab components?

- Flight labs are conducted at the Premier Flight Center, LLC, 5000 West Kearney Street, Suite 110 (at the former Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal) or at the Floyd W Jones Airport, 2415 S. Jefferson Avenue in Lebanon.
- Flight costs are determined on an hourly basis for aircraft and flight instruction. Completion of the flight lab requires completion of the final FAA check ride for that particular FAA certification.
- Each FAA written exam requires a fee. The cost of this exam is included with the cost of the appropriate ground school course.

Do students begin flying immediately after enrolling in the aviation program?

- Yes! Full-time students will be in a plane the first week of classes. OTC wants students to begin flight training as soon as possible so they can complete their degree in two years.

What degree will a student complete?

- This degree is an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) in Aviation Flight Technology.

How long does the entire degree take?

- A focused student can complete this degree, including required lab time and flight time, in two years.

What is the total cost of the degree?

- Students are charged the normal OTC Tier III tuition rate for aviation classes, which is \$127 per credit hour for in-district students for the 2019-2020 school year.
- An itemized projection of costs per semester is [available here](#), under the program costs button.
- These lab fees are all inclusive (including aviation fuel) assuming a student completes the lab components in the average amount of time needed by students. If a student is unable to complete the required flight skills within the scheduled hours then the student would be charged for additional flight time at the listed hourly rate.

Can students use Financial Aid, A+ Scholarships, or Veterans benefits?

- The program is financial aid eligible. Students are eligible for all state and federal aid, foundation, and institutional scholarships. Keep in mind all grant, loan and scholarships will have dollar limits.
- Students who are qualified A+ scholarship recipients are eligible to use those fund benefits toward the cost of the program. These dollars are applied to the tuition and common course fees. This scholarship does **not** cover lab fees, such as flight costs.
- VA benefits will not be available for at least two years after the start of the program. This means January 2020 should be the first semester for this type of aid.

What college credit can transfer?

- Students can earn an associate degree at OTC and transfer to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree. OTC has signed articulation agreements with Missouri State University and Drury University; both allow aviation courses to transfer seamlessly into certain degree programs. OTC continues to work with our four-year partner universities to develop transferable degree options.

Can students test out of any courses?

- To satisfy aviation curriculum requirements, students with pilot certificates and ratings earned with college credit through an Aviation Accreditation Board International [AABI] accredited university may transfer those credits without demonstration of proficiency.
- College credits obtained through a non-AABI accredited institution will be reviewed by the Department of Aviation to ensure the issuing institution follows policies and practices consistent with AABI accreditation standards.
- Prior flight experience will be evaluated and may result in advanced standing in flight labs. Students are responsible for aircraft rental required for the evaluation. This evaluation is not eligible for financial aid reimbursement.
- While logged flight hours never expire, Part 141 accredited time will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Can a student take aviation courses at other campuses besides Springfield?

- The non-flight courses are offered at the OTC Springfield campus with the addition of the Lebanon Center in August 2019.

- Lab classes will be taught by Premier Flight Center, LLC, which operates out of the flight training center at the former Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal, 5000 W. Kearney Street, Suite 110. In August 2019, the OTC Lebanon Center's aviation program will be at the Floyd W Jones Airport, 2415 S. Jefferson Avenue, Lebanon, Missouri.

How many people are in each class?

- Non-flight courses taught by OTC faculty are capped at 24 students.
- Lab classes are one-on-one, taught by Premier Flight Center, LLC, and are limited only by number of planes and flight instructor hours.

Do students need to purchase computers or other flight equipment?

- Although a laptop or tablet is useful, OTC computers are available at all OTC locations for student use. Personal computer costs are not covered by financial aid up front, but any refund given from financial aid can be used in the purchase of the item (if there is a refund).
- Textbooks and flight equipment, such as headsets, charts, and electronic calculators, are costs in addition to the course fee. Since some textbooks will be used for more than one class, initial estimates place total aviation textbook costs for the entire program under \$500. General education textbooks are not included in this total since many students have completed some of these courses already, and electives are at the discretion of the student.

What kind of airplanes and other equipment will students have access to at the flight center?

Aircraft

- OTC and its flight school partner will offer students the opportunity to train in Technically Advanced Aircraft according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- Each aircraft has Garmin G500 Glass panels and Garmin 430 WAAS enabled GPS systems along with synthetic vision, terrain alerts, ADS-B satellite reporting and on-board Nexrad weather. These aircraft are designed to match and train the avionics used in modern air carriers.
- The training aircraft also have redundant analog versions of the instruments and avionics allowing instructors to "turn off" the modern equipment and train for older instruments and equipment commonly found in general aviation aircraft and some smaller commercial operations.
- The planes are specifically designed with the sole purpose of training in mind. They have built-in memory and training aids to allow instructors to reinforce habits and procedures used in commercial aviation. An example is auditory alerts set by the pilot before each flight to announce key altitudes for better situational awareness and safety.
- Students will complete the program with the knowledge to fly using paper charts and magnetic compasses and at the same time be prepared for what is being used by commercial passenger lines, thus reducing any hurdles when searching for employment.

Simulator

- The RedBird FMX simulator is an FAA Approved Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD). It has full motion across all three axis along with control feedback.
- Control feedback means the controls will simulate the actual pressures the pilot will feel in flight.
- The simulator allows instructors to hold training sessions creating weather conditions and emergency conditions that would be unsafe to duplicate in actual flight.
- The simulator can also exactly recreate a condition based on an actual flight so that a student can work through a mistake without the added distraction of flying an airplane.
- As an added benefit, students will learn in a Class C airspace and airport so they will become immersed in Air Traffic Control (ATC) Operations from the beginning. OTC students talk to Air Traffic Control from the very first flight and learn the phraseology from day one so they will be more confident and clear on radio communications.