

Growing the Aviation Business

Industry forecasts indicate a serious shortage in skilled aviation professionals in coming years. According to the International Civil Aviation Organization, which monitors international aviation policies, airlines around the world will need 480,000 new airplane technicians and 350,000 more pilots to fly them over the next 20 years.



The Future of Aviation Is Here

A bold new era for CWU Aviation has begun. For the first time in its history, the program can run its own flight school, under its own license. The department has obtained a Federal Aviation Administration Part 141 certification for training pilots.

Central is working aggressively to expand its capacity for enrolling more students in aviation programs and to support the highest industry standards in the aviation curriculum. CWU admitted more than 60 new students to the program last fall. From 2014 to 2016 enrollment in Central's BS Aviation-Professional Pilot program increased from 45 to 162 students.

To ensure excellence in the program, the CWU Board of Trustees approved funding for purchasing a fleet of planes. CWU now owns five new Piper Arrows, in addition to six leased aircraft. CWU Aviation has developed a 20-year fleet management plan, which will provide continuous upgrades to refresh the fleet.

The plan provides the university with greater flexibility to ensure the best possible student outcomes, increased control over its equipment, and improved accountability. It will permit CWU to grow capacity at the rate needed to meet demand and improve degree efficiency.

CWU has been a leader in educating aviation professionals since the 1940s.

Partnerships

In November 2016, Ellensburg-based Midstate Aviation sold CWU an office facility and a hangar located on airport property, which is owned by Kittitas County. A new county partnership agreement assigns CWU and Midstate shared responsibilities as the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at Bowers Field. The FBO provides airport users a broad range of aviation services, from fuel to food and lounge services.

Under the new agreement, Midstate will retain the fueling and maintenance part of the FBO while CWU will provide other airport services for the guest pilots and airplanes.

Big Bend Community College Partnership

CWU's Department of Aviation works closely with Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Students can complete a two-year degree at BBCC and then transfer directly into the CWU BS Aviation program to finish their baccalaureate degree.

"This plan will give us much greater flexibility and control over educational content and the quality and reliability of flight training."

*Paul Ballard, Dean
CWU College of Education and Professional Studies*

First and Best

Central's aviation program is the most experienced in the Northwest. CWU is perfectly positioned to train many of the next generation of pilots and aviation professionals. The program is the only place on the West Coast to offer training on the CRJ-200 turbo-jet trainer, airline-style curriculum, and an advanced turbo-prop trainer.

At CWU, students can choose one of two specializations:

- **Commercial Pilot Specialization**, which allows students to obtain: private pilot certification, instrument rating, and commercial pilot certificate and multi-engine rating.
- **Flight Officer Specialization**, which allows students to add the Certified Flight Instructor Certificate and advanced simulation courses.

Additionally, in 2014, CWU became the first university in the Pacific Northwest to authorize graduates for a Restricted Airline Transport Pilot certificate, which reduces the number of hours required by a third and drops the age requirement by two years.



“Our goal is not just to grow our aviation program, but also to serve as a great resource for the entire region.”

*Paul Ballard, Dean
CWU College of Education and Professional Studies*

BY THE NUMBERS

1

Only fully accredited public university Bachelor of Science Aviation program In the Pacific Northwest

1

Only university in the Pacific Northwest to offer expedited new pilot certification

17

Students annually receiving a \$7,500 stipend from Horizon Air to study aviation

50

National ranking as a Top-Flight School, according to www.pilot-colleges.com

220+

Students in CWU's fast-growing Aviation degree program

617,000

Number of new pilots needed worldwide over the next 20 years



Central
Washington
University

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