

Aviation Maintenance:

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the program take 2 years?

The Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Columbus State is an FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician School. All FAA approved A&P programs must offer a minimum of 1900 hours of training. In our semester system, this equates to 4 full-time semesters, plus 2 full-time summer sessions of study to complete the Airframe and Powerplant (AMT) Program.

What are the requirements for entrance?

To begin technical Aviation classes, one must have placed above the Development Classes (DEV) on the college placement test. Placement into, transfer credit for, or completion of Math 1050 and English 1100 is acceptable.

Should I enroll for the Airframe & Powerplant Certificate or the Associates of Applied Science?

Even if you plan only to earn your certificate for FAA certification, you need to code yourself as an AMT - AAS student for financial aid.

Must the academic courses be taken along with the technical courses each semester?

No, the plan of study for academic subjects does not need to be followed as presented. Many students complete the technical program and then continue with the academics part-time to complete the degree. Even if you move away from the area, you can complete academics at another college and then transfer the credits back to Columbus State to complete the Associate of Applied Science.

I have military experience; must I take the entire program?

If you were active duty military performing aircraft maintenance, you should contact the FAA to see if your job code (MOS) would qualify you for a rating based on your experience. The minimum time on task for the experience requirement is 18 months. If the FAA gives you a sign-off (permission to test) for either Airframe or Powerplant, a plan of study can be customized to fit your experience. After completing FAA testing for the rating you have permission, Non-Traditional Credit can be awarded for classes as appropriate. Classes containing elements of both Airframe and Powerplant would require proficiency credit. Each proficiency test costs \$50.00. To be issued a certificate, a minimum of 750 technical hours must be completed.

If you have military training, but cannot meet the 18 months experience requirement, (National Guard member for example) or your MOS does not qualify you for a rating (Avionics ratings often do not qualify) You can proficiency test out of coursework that matches your military technical training. Each proficiency test costs \$50.00. To be issued a certificate, a minimum of 750 of the technical hours must be completed.

I am a pilot, what classes can I proficiency?

AMT-1101 Introduction to Aviation. This class covers mathematics, physics, and aerodynamics.

I am an engineer; what classes can I proficiency?

The basic electricity (AMT 1106) is most commonly the class proficiency tested by those with Engineering Degrees.

I already have my A&P; can I take only the academic classes and receive the associates' degree?

A&P Mechanics can be awarded non-traditional credit for the Aviation Technical program. To be awarded an Associates of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology, Columbus State requires 23 credit hours to be earned at Columbus State, 14 of which must be in the technical area of the degree. So even with Non-Traditional credit for the Aviation classes, you must still take a minimum of 14 credit hours of Aviation Maintenance coursework. You are not issued a certificate of completion for the program.

Can I take day and evening technical classes both day and nights to complete my certificates faster?

It is possible to take both day and night classes. Because night offerings are limited, it is difficult to take an entire day and night of classes in such a way as to shorten the months required to complete the program.

I would like to get just one rating, not both.

Very few employers hire those individuals with only a single certificate. Exceptions would be someone with military airframe structure experience and a company that does only airframe repairs. Our AMT program is designed to complete General subjects, Airframe second, and Powerplant last.

I have taken classes at another A&P school. Can I receive credit?

If the school was a post-secondary school, with an official transcript showing what FAA line items have been successfully completed, transfer credit can be given. Each school divides the FAA curriculum differently; therefore, to receive credit, all line items from the Columbus State Aviation class must have been addressed for credit. To be issued either an Airframe or Powerplant certificate, 50% of the required courses must be taken at Columbus State. Although the curriculum is the same, College credit cannot be given for high school vocational education. The VOED program could be the basis of proficiency testing. Each proficiency test costs \$50.00.

Is financial aid available?

Yes. All financial Aid starts with the Federal FAFSA form. The code number for Columbus State is 006867. Go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Is there a graduate placement program?

Not an official program. Most graduates find job leads through the internet.

What is the local job market like?

Many graduates are employed by Republic Airlines and American Eagle Airlines. Other employers include NetJets, Spirit Aeronautics and AirNet. Central Ohio also has many corporate operators. Many opportunities exist for those willing to relocate.

What are graduates paid?

Graduates without previous experience generally start at between \$14-16 per hour. Typically after 5 years of experience most mechanics earn between \$22-28 per hour.