Program Review
Executive Summary

Aviation

Majors Reviewed:

- *Aviation Maintenance Technology, B.S.*
- *Aviation Technology, A.A.S.*
- *Aviation Maintenance Technician, Certificate*

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Pennsylvania College of Technology
A Penn State Affiliate

As part of Pennsylvania College of Technology's commitment to transparency, accountability, and academic excellence, we are pleased to share highlights from the most recent program review of our Aviation Program. This assessment reflects a comprehensive analysis of program effectiveness, student success, industry alignment, and ongoing improvement initiatives.

Key Developments and Findings:

- **Implementation of FAA Part 147 Standards:** In September 2022, the Aviation Program adopted the revised FAA Part 147 regulations. These updates have prompted significant adjustments to our course structure, ensuring that the program remains compliant with federal guidelines and aligned with current aviation industry training standards.
- **FAA Prep Class Success:** A newly introduced FAA Preparation Class has already produced measurable benefits. Students are taking certification exams at higher rates, and average test scores have improved—demonstrating the effectiveness of targeted academic support in preparing students for licensure.
- **Spring Program Start Under Review:** The College is actively investigating the possibility of adding a spring start option. This change could improve accessibility for prospective students and enhance enrollment to assist with industry needs.
- **Ongoing Equipment Modernization:** To keep pace with industry advancements, the program continues to update its lab and instructional equipment. These improvements ensure students are trained on current technologies and tools used by today's aviation professionals.

Program Strengths:

- **Established and Stable:** As a long-standing program, Pennsylvania College of Technology's Aviation Program brings a wealth of instructional experience, operational stability, and a solid track record of preparing graduates for successful careers.
- **Modern Facilities:** Unlike many peer institutions that face challenges with aging infrastructure, our program benefits from relatively modern facilities—providing a safe, advanced, and engaging learning environment.
- **Strong Instructional Environment:** A favorable student-to-teacher ratio, abundant instructional aids, and well-equipped labs support personalized instruction and experiential learning, enhancing student engagement and success.

Identified Weakness:

- **Limited Capacity for Rapid Program Expansion:** While the program's strengths in staffing and facilities provide a solid foundation, current capacity limitations in staffing, physical facilities, and available supplies present challenges to scaling course offerings or accommodating increased enrollment. Lab space, equipment availability, and instructional materials are closely tied to enrollment caps, and any significant growth in student demand could strain these existing resources. As the need for skilled aviation technicians continues to rise, expanding instructional space, upgrading supplies, and

increasing staffing flexibility will be critical to ensuring the program remains accessible, responsive, and aligned with workforce demands.

- **Need to Update the Bachelor's Degree Curriculum:** Preliminary feedback from industry partners, advisory board members, faculty, and current students indicates that the Aviation Bachelor's degree may require updates to remain aligned with current and emerging industry expectations. Emerging industry trends emphasize the growing importance of advanced technologies, leadership skills, and business knowledge in aviation-related careers.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- Continue the FAA Prep Class to support student licensure success.
- Complete curriculum revisions in response to FAA Part 147 implementation.
- Assess and, if appropriate, implement a spring start for enhanced enrollment options.
- Continue investment in equipment modernization to maintain industry relevance.
- Finalize evaluation and make data-informed adjustments to the Bachelor's program curriculum.

Pennsylvania College of Technology's Aviation Program remains committed to delivering a high-quality, future-focused education that meets both student and industry needs.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.pct.edu/academics/et/aviation