



EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN FLORIDA ARE PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AVIATION PROFESSIONALS

Aviation companies like air carriers, air traffic management centers, public agencies, and private consulting firms all need a technically educated and experienced workforce. While workforce needs assessments have historically focused on occupations at air carriers (like pilots and flight attendants) and air traffic management centers, it has become increasingly obvious that airports themselves also face workforce shortages nationwide. Educational institutions across Florida are working hard to bridge that gap. Recent data shows that 53 airports in Florida offer aviation education opportunities to address these shortages. The schools themselves range from small flight training operations to fully accredited universities. The programs offered are diverse and include instruction in aviation management, airframe and power mechanics, military air logistics, and pilot training, just to name a few. Below, we profile four universities that are leading the way in aviation education opportunities in Florida.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - The Cutting Edge of Aviation Education

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is one of the premier aviation education institutions in the country. Between online students and its two campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida and Prescott, Arizona, Embry-Riddle enrolled nearly 34,000 students in the 2017-2018 academic year. The school offers more than 100 degrees in aviation, engineering, applied science, business, computer science, security and intelligence, and space. Embry-Riddle has 6,338 students at its Daytona Beach campus enrolled in its four colleges, all of which have aviation components. At this campus, located directly adjacent to the runways of Daytona Beach International Airport, hundreds of Embry-Riddle training flights depart and arrive daily. In addition to its traditional degree programs, the university also offers non-degree professional and youth programs, allowing the university to train and prepare students in all aspects of the aviation industry.



Jacksonville University - Getting Down to Business

Founded 33 years ago, the School of Aviation at Jacksonville University (JU) currently enrolls 170 students. The school is divided into two degree programs: Aviation Management and Aviation Management & Flight Operations. Each program offers different tracks that allow students to specialize in a field that interests them. These specializations include airport and airline management, air traffic control, and pilot training (both commercial and military). What makes JU's School of Aviation unique is that it is housed with the Davis College of Business. Therefore, students can earn a business degree, preparing them for careers as well-rounded aviation professionals. According to Captain Matt Tuohy, Director of Aviation, airlines that employ JU graduates like having pilots who understand the business-side of aviation because these airlines often choose their leadership from the pool of employed pilots. JU's business minded aviation programs make sure that students have solid, well rounded educations before they enter the aviation industry workforce.





Lynn University - Smaller School Makes a Big Impact

Lynn University's Burton D. Morgan College of Aeronautics is located in Boca Raton, Florida. The college is close-knit, admitting only 75 students at a time. At Lynn there are degree programs and certificates in air traffic control, aviation operations and security, and flight instruction. In May 2018, Lynn formed a unique partnership with nearby Saint Andrew's School that allows high school students to work toward earning their pilot's license. The program involves three hours of flight time and up to four hours of ground school each week, with instruction taking place after school or on weekends.

Florida Institute of Technology - Worldwide Connections

Located in Melbourne, Florida, the Florida Institute of Technology's (FIT) College of Aeronautics provides education programs in both flight and non-flight aviation careers. Currently home to about 600 students, the college offers over two dozen undergraduate and graduate degrees in various aviation-related fields, including aviation science, aerospace engineering, air traffic control, and aviation management. While FIT is an important part of the local Melbourne economy, it is also vital to the national aviation industry. Recent counts show that at least 36 percent of the students at FIT were from out of state and 47 percent had international backgrounds, showing just how far FIT's impact on the aviation industry reaches.

BY THE NUMBERS

Jacksonville University

- School of Aviation enrolls 170 students
- Offers degrees in aviation management and aviation operations, with specializations in airport management, airline management, and air traffic control

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

- Enrolls 6,338 students
- Offers over 50 aviation certificate and degree programs

Florida Institute of Technology

- College of Aeronautics currently enrolls 603 students
- 36 percent of FIT students come from out of state, while 47 percent are international

Lynn University

- Burton D. Morgan College of Aeronautics admits 75 students at a time
- Offers degrees in air traffic control, aviation operations and security, and flight instruction



Overview

The aviation industry has a diverse range of jobs that requires a workforce with an equally diverse range of talent, skills, and abilities. As the industry grows, demand for well-trained professionals will continue to grow along with it. As these four examples show, educational institutions across Florida are ensuring that demand for a dynamic workforce is being met.