

AIRCRAFT PILOT TRAINING

Frequently Asked Questions

Waco Campus, Texas State Technical College

How many flight hours will I complete?

The average student will complete approximately 275 hours of flight time as they progress through Private Pilot, Instrument, and Commercial to Flight Instructor.

Does TSTC have a partnership with any of the major airlines?

Currently TSTC does not have any official agreements with the major airlines for pilot placement. This has not detracted from our students' obtaining employment in the industry. Numerous airlines routinely come to the school in order to recruit pilots, mechanics and avionics personnel for employment upon graduation.

Will financial aid cover my flight costs?

Federal student aid will not cover the costs of flight training, but only those costs associated with tuition and housing. Many students utilize outside financing to cover the flight costs through the Texas College Access Loan (www.hhloans.com) or the Sallie Mae student loan program (www.salliemae.com).

Can I pay for my flight hours with VA benefits?

Currently the VA will fund the program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and in some instances vocational rehab. Students are able to use a family member's benefit in some situations. Please note that there is a limit on how much the VA will pay for training per flight course, though many students complete each course before reaching the limit. Talk to your VA benefits coordinator for more information.

How much will it cost for me to complete this program?

The program consists of five semesters and 60 semester credit hours. It takes the average student six semesters to complete, depending on their flight progress. Program costs for in-state tuition are about \$11,160 in total, and flight costs for the program are typically between \$65,000 and \$70,000 for the average student. This is not a "flat-rate" flight program, so individual flight fees will vary.

I already have my private pilot's license; how soon will I graduate?

A student who arrives with a private pilot's license will be given credit for that course and can advance in the program faster. We do not recommend proceeding past Private to Instrument prior to coming to the school. This is due to school policy that a minimum number of flight courses are required to be completed with the college in order to obtain the degree.

What is the difference between Class I, II and III physicals?

Flight physicals are classified based on the number of passengers a pilot may be expected to fly. Class I is the strictest, and Class III or Basic Med is the least strict. We will not allow a student into the program without at least a Class II, because if an individual is unable to attain a Class II physical, they cannot exercise commercial privileges as a pilot and, therefore, cannot be paid. In this situation, they would not be able to work as a commercial pilot, and the program would not be beneficial for further employment.

How do I set up the mandatory flight account?

Flight accounts are set up through Student Accounting and are separate from tuition. It is required that a student entering the program has \$12,000 in their account to start and deposits funds as necessary to continue the program.

Am I guaranteed a job once I complete this program?

With the current pandemic, the airline industry has been severely depressed. Fortunately, industry news has recently been very positive. A student entering the program in 2021 would be expected to graduate in 2023, at which time industry predictions indicate that the job market should be wide open. TSTC routinely hires new instructors from our top graduates to enable them to gain the experience and hours to progress to the airlines. This normally takes about 18 months after graduation, depending on student load.

Are there additional requirements in order to be accepted into the Aircraft Pilot Training program?

Yes, the application checklist to submit an additional minimum requirements information packet for consideration can be found on the program webpage. All items on the checklist that are applicable must be completed prior to submission. When you apply to the college and indicate Aircraft Pilot Training as your preferred program, you will be assigned a certified flight instructor to answer your additional questions and help you prepare your additional minimum requirements information packet.