Welcome and Overview

Thank you for your interest in the Aviation Science program at Portland Community College! This document is intended to give you an overview of some of the aspects of the PCC aviation program that you need to know before applying. If you have any questions after reading this document, further contact info for specific questions is located at the end of this document.

PCC has three degrees: Airplane with Flight Instructor (AVSA), Airplane without Flight Instructor (AVS), and Helicopter with Flight Instructor (AVSH). For all of the degrees, you will get your FAA private pilot license, instrument rating, and commercial license. The airplane degrees include both single-engine and multi-engine training. The Flight Instructor degrees include both CFI and CFII/MEI training.

PCC program gives PCC students two locations in the Portland metro area to utilize their flying. Driving time is the same (20 minutes) from PCC to the airport on each side of town.

- East side: PCC Southeast campus and can fly out of the HAA Troutdale airport
- West side: PCC Rock Creek campus and can fly out of the HAA Hillsboro airport

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What Kinds of Jobs Can I Get?

Graduates of PCC’s Aviation Science program will typically spend their first two years as a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI). During that time they build the experience that will qualify them for more advanced jobs, usually pilot jobs involving turbine engines, such as these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airplane</th>
<th>Helicopter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Instructor</td>
<td>Chief Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Airlines</td>
<td>Scenic Tour Pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Pilot</td>
<td>Offshore Oil Rig Support Pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Pilot</td>
<td>Utility / Aerial Crane Pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cargo Pilot</td>
<td>Forest Fire Fighting</td>
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<td>Air Ambulance Pilot</td>
<td>Heli-ski Pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Relief Pilot</td>
<td>Air Ambulance Pilot</td>
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How Much Will I Get Paid?

The pay ranges greatly in the pilot industry. In the beginning, as a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI), the pay might range from $15,000 to $50,000 per year. After that, as you move into the jobs listed above, the pay can range from $40,000 to well over $100,000 per year, depending on what you decide to do and how long you do it. While there are certainly good-paying jobs, however, most pilots will tell you that money is not a very good reason to get into this business; you have to love flying!
Degree options

There are three aviation science degree options:

- Airplane with Flight Instructor,
- Airplane without Flight Instructor, and
- Helicopter with Flight Instructor

All of these degrees are Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees. Detailed catalog information available here: [http://catalog.pcc.edu/programsanddisciplines/aviationscience/](http://catalog.pcc.edu/programsanddisciplines/aviationscience/)

**Note:** The Aviation Science degrees are degrees designed to help you become a professional pilot. See [www.pcc.edu/amt](http://www.pcc.edu/amt) if you are interested in becoming an aviation maintenance technician.

Degree Layout

The AAS degree requires a minimum of 90 credit hours. PCC is on the quarter system. The four basic components of the aviation degree are:

- Core aviation-related coursework (including flight training);
- General education classes;
- Math/writing requirements for graduation, and;
- Approved electives.

Core aviation-related courses

Aviation academic courses

The aviation academic courses allow for more in-depth study into subjects recommended by our industry advisory board. They are offered on a rotating basis on both campuses, on a schedule that allows students to complete them over the course of two years without having to travel to a different campus. The aviation academic courses do not include any flight training. All of the 100-level aviation academic courses are only offered in-person. Some of the 200-level aviation academic courses are offered online. **AVS-127: Intro to Aviation** is open to the public, and a great way to explore the aviation industry if you are still unsure about whether the pilot career is for you.

- **AVS-127: Intro to Aviation**
- **AVS-137: Applied Aerodynamics**
- **AVS-157: Aircraft Systems - Airframe**
- **AVS-167: Aircraft Systems - Powerplant**
- **AVS-177: Pilot Human Factors & Safety**
- **AVS-217: Aviation Weather Services**
- **AVS-227: Aviation Careers**
- **AVS-237: Aviation Law & Regulations**
- **AVS-267: Economics of Flight Operations**
- **Basic physics and general meteorology also may be required, depending on your degree.**
Flight courses

Flight courses involve a specific number of hours of ground and flight instruction, and take place at the airport. All courses cover a specific portion of an FAA-approved syllabus, and involve significant fees. Contact the Aviation Science department for the current flight training fees. You will also take a Flight Prep Lab with each flight course. It will meet once per week for three hours at a specific time and give you the opportunity to work with other students on your flight-related materials.

Math & writing graduation requirements

In order to graduate with an AAS in aviation science, you will need to successfully complete or demonstrate competency in *MTH 65: Introductory algebra, part II*, and *WR 121: English composition*.

General education

Sixteen credits of general education courses are required in order to graduate with the AAS degree. These are not aviation-specific classes. More information on general education classes here: [http://catalog.pcc.edu/generaleducationdisciplinestudies/](http://catalog.pcc.edu/generaleducationdisciplinestudies/) Scroll down and click on “Associate of Applied Science (AAS)”

Electives

The AAS degree requires at least 90 credits. If you have not accumulated 90 credits with all the above classes, you can select from the approved elective list to fill in credits to get you up to the degree requirements. Typical students with no previous college experience require between 6 and 14 credits of electives in order to earn the degree.
Flight training

Licenses/ratings earned

The aviation science degrees include the following FAA certificates and ratings. All of the degrees result in approximately 250 hours of flight time logged (excluding simulator time). These FAA licenses and ratings are all required for each degree.

Airplane with flight instructor

- Commercial single and multi-engine land
- Instrument airplane
- Flight instructor -- single and multi-engine, instrument instructor (CFI/CFII/MEI)

Airplane without flight instructor

- Commercial single and multi-engine land
- Instrument airplane

Helicopter with flight instructor

- Commercial rotorcraft helicopter
- Instrument helicopter
- Flight instructor -- rotorcraft helicopter, instrument instructor (CFI/CFII)

Paying/billing for flight training

Each flight class includes a flight fee that represents a specific number of hours of ground and flight training. The student pays the flight fee at the same time regular college tuition and fees are paid for. The flight fee must be paid in full.

For the private pilot training only, since the student will be flying with a PCC-employed flight instructor, a portion of the flight fees is held at PCC and used to pay the flight instructor. The amount to be used for aircraft rental is still transferred over to HAA and put in an account with the student’s name on it.

Hours covered

Each flight class represents an amount of flight training that the department thinks can be completed in one term by a full-time student. In this case, “full time student” is someone who is scheduling 4-5 flight blocks per week, and who is dedicating at least two hours of self-study for each hour in the cockpit. All the flight hours must be completed in order to earn a grade in a flight class.

Paying for additional training

The flight fees for each flight class represent a specific amount of training. If you exhaust the flight fees and have not yet earned the associated license or completed the specific lessons, you will need to pay for additional training out-of-pocket directly to HAA. This applies regardless
of your funding source -- neither financial aid nor the VA will pay for any additional training above and beyond the flight fees.

Refunds
If you withdraw from your flight class before the drop deadline, you will receive a full refund of all tuition, fees, and flight fees.

If you withdraw from your flight class after the drop deadline, you will receive a full refund of all money that has been sent to HAA, but any money that was held at PCC for the purposes of paying flight instructors (private pilot courses only) is nonrefundable.

If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, you may petition the PCC Registrar for an exception to these policies. More information on withdrawing and drop deadlines here:
http://www.pcc.edu/enroll/registration/dropping.html

How long do I have to finish flying?
The flight courses are designed to be completed in one term (quarter) -- approximately 11-12 weeks. If you don't finish the flight training in one term, but you have made sufficient progress and have been making an attempt to finish the class, you may be eligible for an incomplete grade, and an additional term to try to finish the flight class, for a total of two terms.

What if I don't finish flying?
If you don't finish all the hours of ground and flight training in the flight class before two terms have elapsed, you will be awarded an “F” grade and will be removed from the flight program.
Balancing academics and flight training

Recommended Availability to Fly

It is recommended that you schedule a minimum of 4-6 flight blocks per week. A flight block is a four-hour period of time that you should plan to spend at the airport -- some of it for preflight planning, some of it (around two hours) flying the aircraft, and some of it for a post-flight debrief with your instructor. You should attempt to come up with a regular recurring schedule for these flight blocks.

Recommended Course Load at PCC

It is recommended that you take not more than 12 or 13 credit hours per term at PCC. Flight training is a significant, perishable skill, and if you are registered for more than 12 or 13 credits at PCC, you may not have enough time to study and prepare for your flight lessons. A minimum of 12 credits is considered a full-time course load.
Applying to the PCC aviation program

You must apply and be admitted to the PCC aviation program before taking any Aviation Science classes except AVS-127: Intro to Aviation. The aviation application is separate from the general PCC application and is typically available on the aviation web site (www.pcc.edu/fly) for approximately one month, in the beginning of the term prior to the term you wish to start. See our web page for all the steps you need to follow in order to complete the aviation application.

Next steps

Once you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with the contents of your application. Use of certain web browsers may not give you this confirmation, please feel free to contact us if you need verification of application submission.

If anything is missing or incomplete, you will be contacted by the aviation department. Applications will be ranked according to the admissions rubric located on the aviation web site.

Applications will be accepted until the deadline published on the aviation web site. Once the application deadline has passed, the Aviation Department will work to notify all applicants of their status prior to registration time. If you are accepted to the program, you will receive further information about registration.

Factors used to rank applicants

In the event that demand exceeds capacity, applicants will be ranked according to the following factors:

- Location (local address vs. moving here from out of the area)
- Willingness to attend either campus
- All application materials complete at time application submitted
- Successful completion of AVS-127: Intro to Aviation
- Previously successful applicant who could not get in due to program capacity

The department must also ensure that none of the degrees contain more than 85% students receiving veterans’ benefits, due to VA rules.
Transfer Degree Information

PCC’s Aviation Science degrees are Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, which have much more limited transferability than some other degrees. There are several institutions (below) where most or all of the AAS degree will transfer, check with each institution for up-to-date information about your specific case.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University -- Worldwide campus in Portland
Multiple certifications available: certificates, associate, bachelor’s, master’s and PhD
https://worldwide.erau.edu/locations/portland/

Southern Oregon University
Bachelor’s in Applied Science (BAS) in Management
https://inside.sou.edu/degreecompletion/bus/bas.html

Multnomah University
Bachelor’s in Mission Aviation Technology
http://www.multnomah.edu/

Oregon Tech
Bachelor’s in Applied Science (BAS) in Technology and Management
http://www.oit.edu/wilsonville/academics/degrees/technology-management
## Still have questions? Further contact information

If you still have questions after reading the information above, please contact the appropriate person below.

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<tr>
<th>If you have questions about ...</th>
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| Veterans benefits/eligibility  | PCC’s Veterans Services office  
[http://www.pcc.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/veterans/](http://www.pcc.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/veterans/) |
| Financial aid                  | PCC’s Financial Aid office  
| Housing                        | Hillsboro Aero Academy  
(503) 726-3000  
(800) 345-0949  
flightschool@flyhaa.com |
| Credit for previous flight experience, or aviation classes taken at other colleges | Aviation department chair  
Larry Altree  
(971) 722-7457  
laltree@pcc.edu |
| Math & writing placement, General education classes, or Planning out your course load | Aviation advisor  
Southeast campus:  
Marta Hoenig  
(971) 722-6419  
Marta.hoenig@pcc.edu  
Rock Creek campus:  
Annette Murphy  
(971) 722-7665  
amurphy@pcc.edu |