



Your Ultimate Guide to Starting a Career in Aviation

Everglades University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award bachelor's and master's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about our accreditation.

Introduction

Are you interested in getting into the aviation industry but don't know where to start? This guide is an excellent starting point for figuring out what you want to specialize in and what kind of career prospects are available for you. Graduates with aviation degrees can find jobs in aviation management, airport operations management, flight operations management, aviation safety and security, unmanned aerial systems, aviation/aerospace companies, and the military, just to name a few.

The aviation degree programs at Everglades University accommodate those new to the aviation field and seasoned professionals who want to grow their careers. Regardless of your starting point, our aviation management programs can prepare you for many diverse job opportunities in this exciting field. Keep reading to find out everything you need to know when beginning a career in aviation.

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CHAPTER 01

What is Aviation & Aerospace Studies?

Scientifically and mechanically inclined individuals flourish in aviation and aerospace studies.

This field of study includes people who would like to work in the Aviation/Aerospace industries, Airport Operations, Aviation Maintenance Management, Aviation Safety, Aviation Security, Flight Operations, and work with Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Professionals in these fields must have a high level of knowledge of the aviation industry principles, laws, regulations, and specific areas of studies that they choose. Programs in Aviation and Aerospace are typically 4-year Bachelor's Degree programs with the option of continuing to a Master's level of coursework offered through some universities.

The field of aviation and aerospace studies is vast, and graduates can apply these degrees in various positions from entry-level to upper management. The military, aerospace companies, U.S. Government, airports, private airlines, and much more are all in need of highly educated individuals for careers today.



CHAPTER 02

What You'll Need to Study

As there are many specializations available in this area of study, you'll first need to decide which one suits your passion.

The **Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Aviation/Aerospace** from Everglades University has seven concentrations, so you can specialize in your area of interest and be more competitive as you apply for specific jobs. You'll have the benefit of a well-rounded general education to build the communication and analytical skills needed for success in this field.

For those already working in aviation or those with FAA certifications, you'll gain advanced knowledge and practical aviation skills to pursue more specialized, higher-level positions. Let's discuss each of the concentrations first, and then we'll outline some of the careers you can pursue after obtaining your aviation degree from Everglades University.

— Bachelor's with an Aviation Safety Concentration

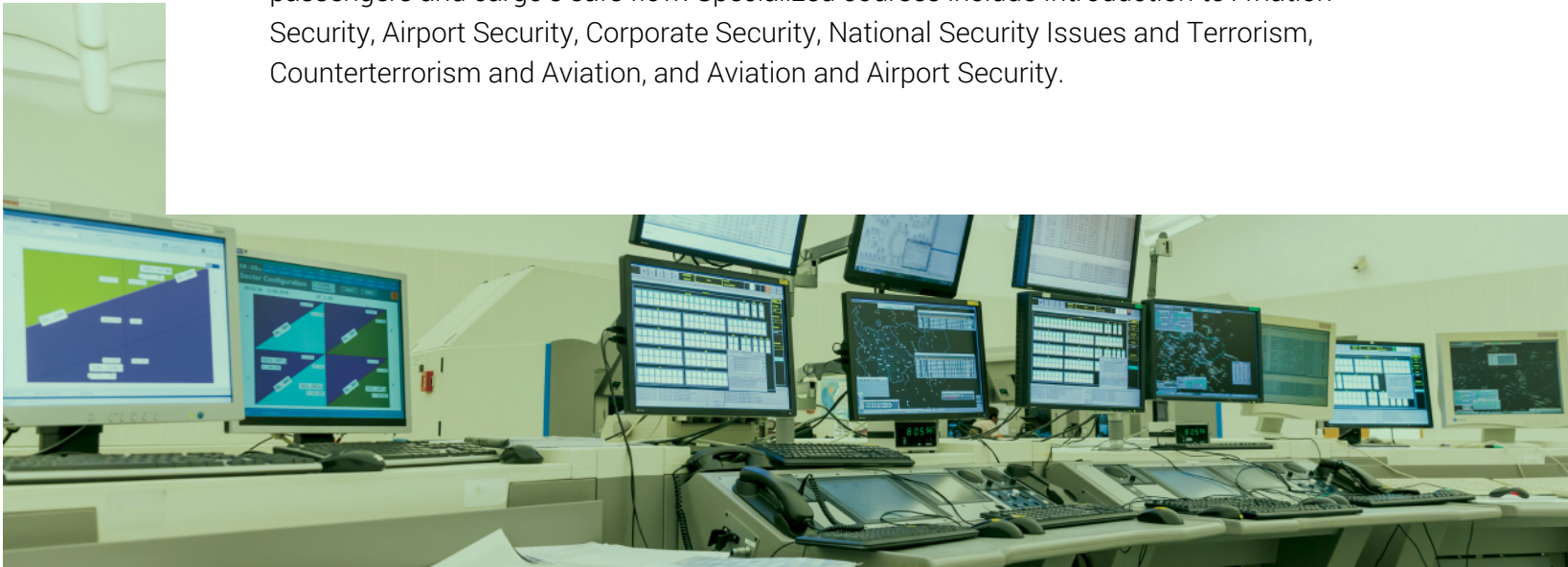
There's a reason flying is safer than driving. There are thousands of aviation safety professionals making sure passengers arrive at their destination without any issue. The **Aviation Safety** concentration provides a set of specialized safety courses, such as Federal Aviation Regulations, Air Traffic Control, Aviation Safety Programs, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Introduction to Crisis and Disaster Management, and Terrorism and Homeland Security.

— Bachelor's with a Concentration in Management

For those seeking a managerial or administrative role within the aviation industry, the **Management concentration** includes courses such as Accounting Principles I & II, Managerial Accounting and Financial Management, Airport Management, Relationship Management, and HR Management. With this program, you'll get the foundational knowledge from general education courses, as well as a variety of specific aviation courses and a strong line-up of management courses.

— Bachelor's with an Aviation Security Concentration

Security is a critical element of aviation operations, especially in today's high-risk environment. The **Aviation Security** concentration focuses on the detection, response, and prevention practices within aviation to avoid loss of life and property and maintain passengers and cargo's safe flow. Specialized courses include Introduction to Aviation Security, Airport Security, Corporate Security, National Security Issues and Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Aviation, and Aviation and Airport Security.



— Bachelor's with an Unmanned Aerial Systems Concentration

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS or [drones](#)) have created a growing job market with great potential. The [UAS](#) concentration combines elements of operations and a substantial aviation foundation. Courses include UAS Fundamentals, UAS Regulations, UAS Sensing Systems, UAS Robotics and Software, UAS Special Topics, and UAS Global and Industrial Applications.

— Bachelor's with an Airport Operations Management Concentration

The efficient operation of an airport requires many skill sets and strong management. The [Airport Operations Management](#) concentration is for those seeking a position (or who already work) with commercial airlines, corporate flight departments, cargo operations, or for the airport authority. Specialized coursework includes Air Cargo, General Aviation Marketing Management, Airport Management, Operations Management, International Business, and Global Strategy and Policy.

— Bachelor's with a Flight Operations Concentration

Note: Only those holding an FAA Commercial Instrument Multi-engine pilot certificate or above may enroll in this degree program.

Pilots who want to advance their careers may wish to pursue a [Flight Operations](#) concentration. This concentration is for those holding pilot credentials with at least the commercial instrument multi-engine rating. If you intend to fly for commercial airlines or the corporate/private sector, this concentration would be appropriate. Specialized courses include Air Traffic Control, Aviation Meteorology, Physiology of Flight, Aerodynamics, Aircraft Engines, and Aircraft Systems.

— Bachelor's with an Aviation Maintenance Management Concentration

***Note:** Only those holding an FAA Commercial Instrument Multi-engine pilot certificate or above may enroll in this degree program.*

If you're working in **aviation maintenance** and want to capitalize on your Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) credentials for more significant salary potential, this concentration is ideal. Courses include Aircraft Engines, Aircraft Systems, Aviation Maintenance Management, Macroeconomics, Principles of Supervision, and Operations Management.

— Master's Degree Program in Aviation Science

Designed for aviation professionals, the **Master's Degree in Aviation Science** offers a rigorous, broad-based curriculum. Students will complete technical aviation coursework that includes:

- Intensive analysis of airway transportation systems
- Airport operations
- Aerospace communication systems
- Aerospace logistics
- Aircraft simulation
- Advanced crew resource management procedures
- Aerospace systems safety
- Advanced security and safety program management

The aviation master's degree can boost your lifetime earnings potential by demonstrating your commitment to the aviation industry's advancement. Like the bachelor's degree, you can choose from several concentrations. They include Business Administration, Aviation Operations Management, or Aviation Security.



CHAPTER 03

What Are Some of the Top Careers for a Degree in Aviation Science?

— Aviation Safety Inspectors

Aviation Safety Inspectors make sure the aircraft and aircraft systems are safe to fly. They ensure the pilot and crew are competent and monitor the safety of aviation facilities, equipment, and procedures. Like the Air Traffic Control Specialists, the BA degree will prepare students for this position, but the FAA requires additional training. According to [FederalPay.org](https://www.federalpay.org), Aviation Safety Inspectors had a median annual wage of **\$116,539.82** in 2018.

— Aviation or Airport Manager

An aviation manager ensures that an airport and its departments run efficiently and safely while overseeing airport staff's hiring, management, and compliance with local, state, and federal rules and regulations. The [American Association of Airport Executives](https://www.aaae.org) (AAAE) maintains a third-party certification for aviation managers. According to [Payscale](https://www.payscale.com), the median annual salary is **\$95,000** as of 2020. The compensation varies quite a bit based on the size and location of the airport.

— Airport Security Compliance Specialist

An airport security compliance specialist position involves managing [daily airport operations](#), performing inspections, and compliance audits. The specialist works with local and federal agencies like Visible and Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR), Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security. Depending on the level of experience, the airport's size, and location, the salary is comparable to the Aviation Manager above.

— UAS or Drone Pilot

The drone pilot manages flight operations, technology, and human resources for commercial crewless vehicles or fleets to complete tasks, ranging from land surveys to infrastructure inspection to film production. To work in this field, you'll need a [certification from the FAA](#). As a relatively new career with a broad range of applications, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics has not yet monitored this job's average salary. However, the [Economic Research Institute](#) reports that UAS pilots make an average salary of **\$79,766**.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), U.S. regulators expect the number of commercial drones and people flying them to quadruple over the next five years.

— Aviation Business Development Manager

If you have a passion for both the aviation industry and the business world, a career in business development can be both rewarding and lucrative. You'll use your experience in the aviation industry to help the organization grow by finding new leads, prospects, and new market opportunities. You'll use your problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities to find solutions to operational problems that may be holding the organization back. While the salary will vary depending on your location, industry, and level of experience, the average salary for a business development manager is **\$127,790** according to [Salary.com](#)

A photograph of two men in an aircraft hangar. One man, wearing a light blue shirt, is pointing upwards with his right hand. The other man, wearing a dark shirt, is holding a tablet and looking at the first man. In the background, the nose and cockpit of a large white aircraft are visible. The hangar has a high ceiling with industrial lighting and structural beams.

CHAPTER 04

How to Use Internships and Networking to Find the Right Job

— Internships

If you don't already have work experience in the aviation industry, it's essential to find an internship before you graduate. As with any field, employers are seeking new graduates who can get up to speed quickly. Having relevant professional experience on your resume will give you a definite advantage.

Talk early and often with your academic advisor to research potential internship locations. They should have resources for local airports, airline headquarters, or other aviation-related companies nearby that partner with the university. If you can travel to Washington DC, you might also check out the [Federal Aviation Administration's](#) internship opportunities.

— Networking

Networking is quite possibly the most critical part of your job search. Many students don't realize that they can join professional associations before they graduate. Connecting with others is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the types of jobs in the field and get expert advice from seasoned professionals. You might even get a private heads up about a job opening. Here are three options:

- **American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)** – AAAE supports airport executives at every step of their career. If you plan to work for an airport, this is an organization you must join. You must be engaging in full-time undergraduate study of airport management or related field at an **accredited university** to apply.
- **National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)** – The National Business Aviation Association is the leading organization for companies that rely on general aviation aircraft to help make their businesses more efficient, productive, and successful. NBAA welcomes recent graduates of an aviation management program at a reduced rate.
- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** – While this is not for individual membership, it's an important organization to follow for training and networking. This organization is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing about 290 airlines or 82% of total air traffic.





Take the First Step By Applying Today

Whether you're looking to begin or further expand your aviation career, having the right knowledge and skills will prepare you for your future professional endeavors within the industry. At Everglades University, we offer all degrees 100% online to accommodate our students' various needs and schedules. Everglades is also ranked #2 in social mobility by the US News and World Report for 2020 and in the top 100 Best Regional Colleges South.

Get Started Today

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