



University OUTREACH
College of Continuing Education
College of Liberal Studies

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July 31, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OU AVIATION EARNS EXCEPTION TO FAA RULE FOR CO-PILOT TRAINING

NORMAN, Okla. – Students enrolled in the University of Oklahoma’s aviation program will qualify for an exception to a new rule recently announced by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that increases flight time requirements for individuals seeking employment as first officers.

OU students will qualify for reduced flight hours because the aviation program meets the FAA’s criteria for an aviation education institution.

“The OU Department of Aviation remains one of the nation’s industry-leading collegiate flight training programs,” said Richard Little, senior associate vice president for Outreach at OU. “Our students who wish to fly for commercial airlines now have a substantial cost and time advantage over non-university flight students.”

The new FAA rule requires first officers, also known as co-pilots, to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate. This certification requires 1,500 hours of flight time. Previously, first officers were only required to have a commercial pilot certificate, which requires only 250 hours of flight time. However, also under this new rule, students who earn aviation degrees at four-year universities such as OU can qualify for the ATP certificate after obtaining 1,000 flight hours instead of the standard 1,500. In addition, OU students will also be able to obtain the license at the age of 21 rather than the normally required age of 23.

“I am very proud of the aviation curriculum offered at OU,” said Ken Carson, director of OU Aviation. “With state of the art aviation labs, our students obtain a cutting-edge education and exemplary training that prepares them for success in the aviation industry. Meeting the requirements set forth in the FAA’s new law is just one more way we are able to help our students realize their career goals.”

OU Aviation offers four undergraduate Bachelor of Science degrees in the College of Continuing Education: Air Traffic Management, Aviation Management, Aviation Management Non-Flying and Professional Pilot. During their studies, students have access to flight simulators, aircraft, and other training opportunities available at Max Westheimer Airport in Norman.

For more information on the aviation program, visit aviation.ou.edu.

More information about the FAA’s updated requirements for obtaining an ATP certificate is available at tinyurl.com/faa-atp.

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