Aviation Program Educational Objectives

The following aviation program objectives were derived by the Aviation Faculty. These objectives will serve as the basis of our assessment activities. Many of these objectives were taken from the Department’s mission statement.

The original mission of John D. Odegard was to provide the highest standard of professional aviation education at a reasonable cost to the student. The department would like this to serve as an overarching theme throughout the strategy to reach the school’s mission.

- **Creating graduates that harbor excellent aviation technical abilities**

  Produce future aviation professionals that possess the greatest knowledge and technical abilities possible prior to entering the aviation community.

- **Strive for human excellence through the use of a liberal education**

  Provide students with a well-rounded educational experience that enhances communication, teamwork, and leadership skills while fostering an appreciation for other cultures.

- **Instill characteristics that will fully develop our students' human potential**

  By inspiring students to pursue life-long learning, it is our goal to prepare students with an understanding and acceptance to changes or challenges they may face in the aviation industry.

- **Promote a solid foundation for the continued utilization of technology**

  Due to ever changing technology demands in the aviation industry we provide a foundation of knowledge for current technology use and future applications.
• Provide skills to build and promote a culture of safety in the aerospace industry

Emphasize our vitally important role in the transfer of new information and the building of a culture of safety throughout the aviation community.

Commercial Aviation Program Mission

The mission of the Department of Aviation’s Undergraduate Program in Commercial Aviation is to provide educational opportunities for students that will develop individuals who possess excellent aviation technical abilities, superior communication and teamwork skills, are adaptable to change, seek life-long learning, can effectively utilize technology and have an appreciation of other cultures in order to ensure successful contributions in the global and dynamic aviation industry. This program will prepare graduates in seeking employment in the aviation industry as a professional pilot.

Commercial Aviation Program Outcomes

• Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the skills, techniques, and procedures for safely operating turbine aircraft in commercial operations
• Be able to demonstrate knowledge of human physiology and crew performance in hostile and challenging environments, applying principles in operational, problem-solving scenarios.
• Knowledge of the skills, techniques and procedures for managing airports, airlines, government, non-governmental and general aviation organizations.
• Be able to demonstrate knowledge in single-engine, multi-engine, VFR and IFR flight to the commercial pilot standard.
• Be able to demonstrate instructional knowledge in single-engine VFR and IFR flight.
The assessment of aviation students starts at the university level. UND’s definition of assessment is:

“Assessment is a process by which information from multiple sources is gathered and critically examined to better understand what our students are learning in relation to stated learning goals. Effective assessment results in “informed decision-making” – documenting assessment activities with clarity and in a way that demonstrates continuity and consistency and using the results of assessment to improve student learning.”

**Assessment Learning Cycle**

The Department of Aviation’s Assessment Measures

The Department of Aviation uses several methods to gather direct and indirect assessment data over the course of each academic year. Data gathered is used to improve students learning and strengthen UND’s relationships with industry to ensure students entering the industry are prepared and competitive within their respective career fields. Some methods used include:

1) Focus Groups  
2) Surveys (Graduating Senior Survey, Student Surveys, and Alumni Surveys)  
3) Stage Check completion Rates  
4) Capstone Projects  
5) Aviation Alumni Board Feedback  
6) Program Review  
7) Faculty Assessment and Discussion of Learning Outcomes

More specific information, along with timelines can be found in the Department of Aviation’s Assessment Plan:

[Assessment Plan: Department of Aviation](#)
Graduation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Term</th>
<th>FTFT Cohort (1st Fall)</th>
<th>Fall to Fall Retention</th>
<th>4th Year Grad</th>
<th>6th Year Grad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*2014</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*2015</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Graduation rates for 2014 are updated in 2020, graduation rates for 2015 are updated in 2021

Job Placement

The large majority of UNDs Commercial Aviation graduates first job is as a Certified Flight Instructor for the Department of Aviation. Over 85% of our students and graduates flight instruct right here at UND. This provides a quick and efficient way to build the necessary hours to move on to a career with regional airlines and corporate flight departments across the US. Airlines include but are not limited to:

Skywest Airlines
Endeavour Airlines
Horizon Airlines
Envoy
PSA
GoJet
Compass
Air Wisconsin
Military (All Branches)
Cape Air
US Government

UND Institutional Research conducts placements surveys:

Placement Survey