Serving Colorado’s aviation and aerospace industry

The Metropolitan State University of Denver Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science has served as the launching pad for thousands of careers since 1967. The program blends the latest knowledge in aviation and aerospace with industry needs to propel economic and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Today it’s one of the largest and most advanced collegiate aviation programs in the country, offering fully accredited Bachelor of Science degrees and professional certifications. All courses are taught by expert faculty members who have worked as pilots, engineers, mechanical specialists, scientists, airport managers, airport safety experts and more.

Providing outstanding teaching and academic resources

Through the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science, MSU Denver offers degrees in Aviation and Aerospace Management and Aviation and Aerospace Science. Under the University’s Individualized Degree Program, students also can major in Aerospace Physics and Aerospace Systems Technology.

MSU Denver’s 525 current aviation and aerospace science students learn from faculty with industry expertise in some of the finest facilities available for collegiate aviation education.

Students study in small classes that emphasize relevant career experiences with professors such as:

- Aviation and Aerospace Science Department Chair Jeff Forrest, a 1991 graduate of the MSU Denver program and gubernatorial appointee to the Colorado Aeronautics Board
- Associate Professor Jeff Price (’88), one of the country’s leading experts on aviation security and author (with Jeff Forrest) of the book “Practical Aviation Security: Predicting and Preventing Future Threats”
- Assistant Professor Tanya Gatlin, head coach of the Precision Flight Team and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for Spaceport Colorado

Students have access to the Robert K. Mock World Indoor Airport (WIA), considered one of the best collegiate aviation and aerospace computer and flight simulation training laboratories in the country. The WIA is comprised of FAA-approved flight training devices, aerospace computer-based training systems, air traffic controller training stations and avionics equipment.

Zyola Mix
Aviation Technology Major

On a starry night in Kane‘ohe, Hawai‘i, a 5-year-old named Zyola Mix gazed in awe at the night sky. Today she’s an MSU Denver senior ready to enter the world of aerospace operations and space commercialization. When Mix graduates, she’ll have the opportunity to join Denver’s thriving aviation and aerospace industry, a sector fueled by MSU Denver, which prepares students for jobs exploring the final frontier. “After graduation, my plan is to work in industry in the research and development of space exploration systems,” Mix says. “I look forward to telling people I’m a rocket scientist and blowing their minds with what I can do.”
The Advanced Aviation and Aerospace Flight Simulation Training Lab houses the industry’s most advanced software for simulating space mission analysis and orbital dynamics. Featuring more than $1.8 million in space simulation software donated by the AGI Corp., the lab gives students direct experience working with software used by the U.S. government and many space-related organizations and companies.

Exploring educational frontiers

MSU Denver is embarking on an innovative initiative to integrate the study of aviation and aerospace science, physics, engineering technology, industrial design, computer science and computer information systems in a new building to promote interdisciplinary study and deeper industry ties. Several organizations—including the Colorado Department of Transportation, Sierra Nevada, Lockheed Martin and Jeppesen—have expressed interest in the project.

Designed to prepare the space and advanced manufacturing workforce of tomorrow, the interdisciplinary building and curriculum will expand MSU Denver’s vital role in providing professionals for Colorado’s aviation and aerospace economy.

“MSU Denver prepares its graduates to become the kind of leaders Jeppesen depends on for success.”

—Mark Van Tine
Chief Executive Officer, Jeppesen

Entering the stratosphere of academic excellence

The MSU Denver Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science Precision Flight Team is one of the few programs in the country to win the Loening Award, the oldest and most prestigious collegiate aviation honor in the country. The award, won by the team in 2011, put MSU Denver’s program in the same league as past recipients, including Harvard, Stanford and Ohio State. The National Intercollegiate Flying Association foundation presents the trophy annually to the top program in the country. The award represents excellence in aeronautical skills and sets the benchmark for outstanding collegiate aviation programs nationally. Key grading elements of the award include academics, community involvement, aviation skills, a comprehensive safety program and an ability to advance the profession.

msudenver.edu/aviation