

Delta State University

College of Business and Aviation

**Academic Achievement Metrics for
AABI Accredited Programs**

December 31, 2025

**Fall 2019 – Spring 2025
BCA Flight Operations**

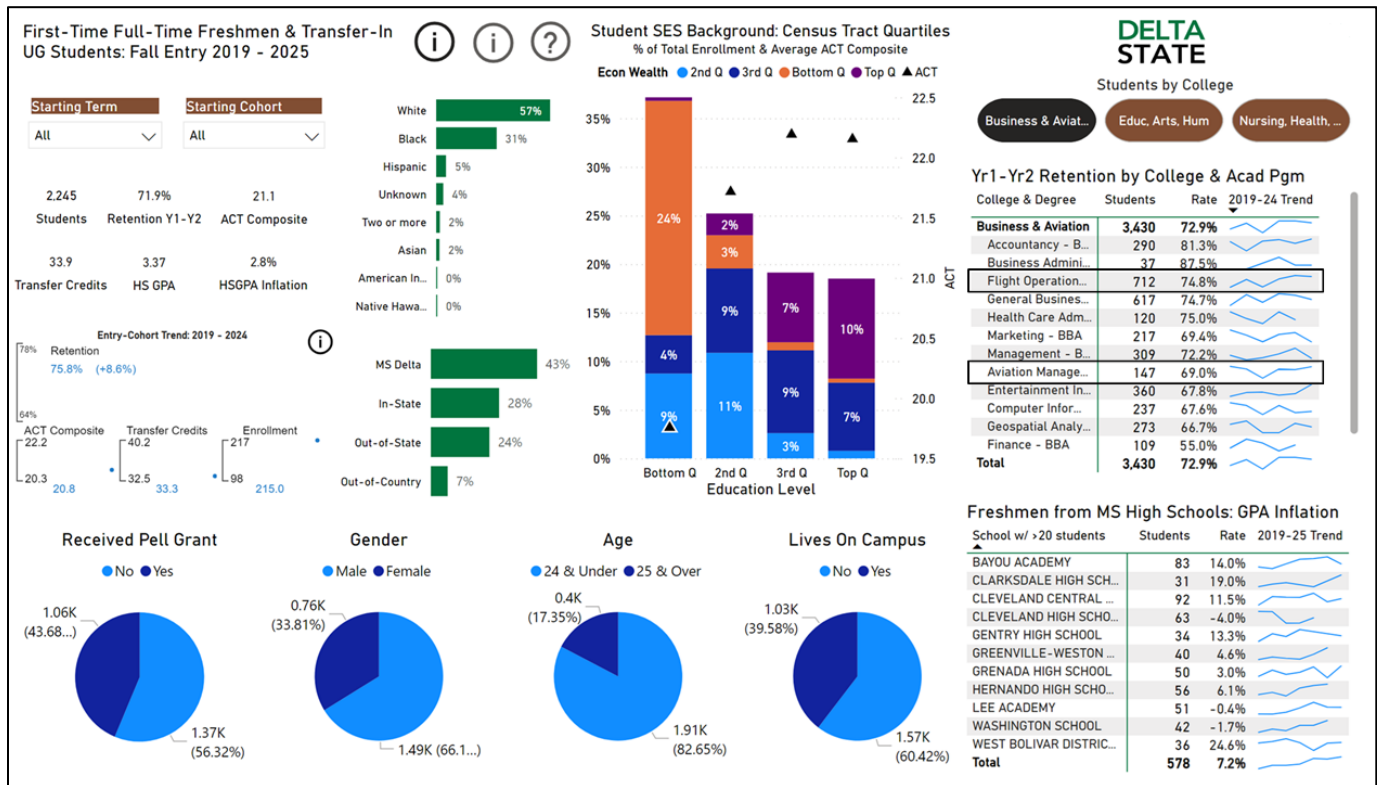


AABI Criterion 3.11.3 Public Information

Each AABI-accredited program **MUST** provide publicly available data on student achievement and information about how the program uses assessment data to advance academic quality, as required by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). To satisfy these requirements, accredited programs **MUST** provide the following, publicly available information, and this information **MUST** be updated at least annually. The report **MUST** include the revision date, and **MUST** include:

1. Student retention and graduation rates, including the percentage of students enrolled one year after starting the program, the number of degrees granted each year, and percentage of bachelor degree students graduating within six (6) years. *The results of which can be viewed on the following pages.*
2. The employment or continuing education rates and types of employment (aviation, aviation related, other, or unknown) within one (1) year of graduation. *The results of which can be viewed on the following pages.*
3. A copy of the program's comprehensive assessment plan. *A copy of the annotated version can be viewed on the following pages.*

Trend Data for the College of Business and Aviation



The data shows that the College of Business and Aviation—and Delta State University overall—serves a disproportionately high number of economically disadvantaged students, demonstrating a strong role in expanding access to higher education beyond that of many comparable institutions.

Enrollment for Flight Operations

Student Enrollment for BCA Flight Operations				
Academic Year	Summer	Fall	Spring	Total
AY 2019-2020	22	104	93	109
AY 2020-2021	20	91	85	101
AY 2021-2022	20	100	87	111
AY 2022-2023	30	115	103	135
AY 2023-2024	31	135	128	153
AY 2024-2025	49	167	149	190
AY 2025-2026	64	194	169	199
Total	236	906	814	998

* Enrollment data is from institution reports submitted to the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL).

* The number in the **Total** column only counts students once per an academic year.

Retention Rates for Flight Operations

First-Year Student Retention Rates				
Fall 2019 to Fall 2025				
BCA Flight Operations	Freshmen* Fall to Fall	Transfers** Fall to Fall	Flight Operations***	Delta State University
Fall 2019 - Fall 2020	63%	57%	61%	71%
Fall 2020 - Fall 2021	90%	63%	76%	67%
Fall 2021 - Fall 2022	52%	76%	61%	70%
Fall 2022 - Fall 2023	81%	70%	77%	75%
Fall 2023 - Fall 2024	84%	83%	83%	74%
Fall 2024 - Fall 2025	75%	88%	82%	75%

* Retention rates are calculated on the percentage of first-time freshmen students who started in the fall and returned the following fall term to continue their studies with the same degree.

**Retention rates are calculated on the percentage of first-year transfers who returned the following year.

***Overall First-Year Retention Rate for Flight Operations

Graduation Rates for Flight Operations

First-Time Freshmen Graduation Rates				
Fall 2012 to Fall 2019				
BCA Flight Operations	Enrolled	Graduated	Flight Operations	Delta State University
Fall 2012	16	4	25%	38%
Fall 2013	12	3	25%	38%
Fall 2014	12	0	0%	39%
Fall 2015	13	4	31%	43%
Fall 2016	16	2	13%	46%
Fall 2017	23	7	30%	46%
Fall 2018	24	5	21%	48%
Fall 2019	35	19	54%	49%

One-Year Post Graduation Employment Rates for Flight Operations

Delta State University's Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning collects alumni data from newly graduating students through a Graduation Exit Survey distributed each semester (fall, spring, summer). This survey is sent to all graduating students as they complete their degree requirements and transition into alumni status.

The survey is administered online (via SurveyMonkey) and invites participation through an email that emphasizes the importance of alumni feedback in improving the university. Graduates are asked to provide information about their personal background, post-graduation plans, and their experiences at DSU. The questionnaire also gathers feedback on general university programs and services, as well as specific academic degree programs.

Participation is voluntary but strongly encouraged, with the university highlighting that responses are anonymous and confidential. The collected data is used to support continuous improvement efforts, helping DSU enhance both its academic offerings and administrative services for future students.

Overall, this process allows Delta State University to systematically collect and analyze feedback from new alumni each semester to inform institutional planning and program development.

BCA Flight Operations 2024-2025 Graduates Job Survey	
Have a job directly related to the field	42%
Have a job in a somewhat related field	8%
Have a job outside the field	8%
Pursuing graduate school	33%
Have not yet formulated employment plans	8%

Degrees Conferred for Flight Operations

Undergraduate Degrees Conferred for BCA Flight Operations	
Academic Year	Graduates
AY 2019-2020	5
AY 2020-2021	9
AY 2021-2022	13
AY 2022-2023	14
AY 2023-2024	16
AY 2024-2025	14
Total	71

*The total number of graduates includes the fall, spring, and summer terms.

Comprehensive Assessment Plan and Results

Division of Commercial Aviation

Assessment Plan and Process

Annotated Report for BCA Flight Operations

The Commercial Aviation program at Delta State University (DSU) provides exceptional education and training in aviation, aligning with the institution's mission to offer innovative and responsive programs. This document is an abbreviated, annotated version of the report. The process follows the internal Delta State University [annual assessment process](#), which is completed on a calendar year basis, the results of which are shared with the university leadership and used to establish resource allocation, including budget.

The Chair of Division of Commercial Aviation leads the assessment process with the assistance and guidance of the Dean of the College of Business and Aviation. The Program Coordinators for the Bachelor of Commercial Aviation (BCA) in Flight Ops and BCA of Aviation Management, along with the Director of Flight Operations and Chair of our Industry Advisory Board serve as the assessment committee.

This assessment plan includes areas required by AABI accreditation and focuses on the goals that are mission critical to the University in the areas of:

- Students and Student Support Services
- Program Mission and Educational Goals
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Curriculum
- Faculty and Staff
- Facilities, Equipment, and Services
- Aviation Safety Culture and Program
- Relations with Industry
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (as aligned with the institutional mission)

Students and Student Support Services

Student Retention Goal:

- **Goal:** The Division of Commercial Aviation is committed to supporting the university's retention rate goal of 80% for First time Freshman returning in their second year. This is measured and reported by DSU's Department of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning Institutional after the census date for each semester.
- **Analysis of Results :** Aviation Management Majors trend data indicates 69% retention and Flight Ops Majors trend data indicates 74.8%. Major contributing factors for reaching the goal of 80% is that DSU's student census background has a skewed percentage coming from economically disadvantaged locations.
- **Improvement Plans:** Improve support for Women in Aviation and other affinity programs; encourage participation in other campus activities; broaden recruitment pool to target more students with > 23 ACT.

Program Mission and Educational Goals

- **Flight Ops Educational Goal:** The Flight Operations Educational goal is to deliver innovative education and flight training that equips students with the essential skills for professional piloting careers, fostering leaders ready to excel in the dynamic aviation field, culminating in a Bachelor of Commercial Aviation degree. At least 75% of graduates will have a job in the field, or a related field, or be enrolled in a graduate program within one year of graduation.
- **Analysis of Results:** Graduates are achieving this goal at 92%. The concern was whether or not they would be employable in the future as use of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly a job skill requirement.
- **Improvement Plan:** To support continuous improvement toward this educational goal, the program will integrate Artificial Intelligence tools to enhance Flight Training learning experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Aviation Core Goal:** Students will demonstrate mastery of the AABI Aviation Core as listed in Criterion 3.3.1
- **Analysis of Results:** Students are maintaining outcomes consistent with the university gen education goals. Discussions regarding the science core, which for aviation management and Flight Ops include the requirement of PHY 211/2: Physics for Aviation/Lab. In some instances, we have substituted Physics for Aviation with a different science course.
- **Improvement Plans:** The university implemented new Gen Ed requirements beginning with 2026-27. The department needs to re-evaluate in light of the 2025 AABI requirements and where those outcomes are covered in the curriculum.
- **PLO 1 Goal:** - 80% of students will pass their final stage check on the first attempt for, Instrument Rating, their Commercial Certificate, and Multi-engine add on.
- **Analysis of Results:** Students achieved the goal for Commercial Certificate and Multi-Engine add on their certification or final stage check. Instrument rating pass rate was 78%. Note: The University FOM and FAA Letter of Authorization for Part 141 uses first time pass rate of the Knowledge Exam for the Instrument Rating to maintain its authorization for examining authority.
- **Improvement Plans:** Implementation of a new Instrument Rating syllabus with further emphasis on procedural training in the latter half of the course. Add an additional AATD with G1000 automation panel.
- **PLO 2 Goal:** Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of federal aviation regulations, showcasing their ability to interpret and apply these regulations to various aspects of aviation operations, safety, and management by scoring at least 78% on a comprehensive exam.
- **Analysis of Results:** 85% of the students achieved this goal. The exam results alone and assessment process did not provide sufficient nuanced data in order to provide meaningful recommendations for improvement.
- **Improvement Plans:** Develop a more nuanced description of the exam, design methodology in order to identify specific areas of improvement that can be tracked over time.
- **PLO 3 Goal:** Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate the CRJ 700 Company Systems Manual effectively. 80% will score at least 90% on a comprehensive presentation.
- **Analysis of Results:** This goal was met.
- **Improvement Plans:** It was noted the CRJ 700 simulator was inconsistently operational during the course. A service agreement will be initiated to offer consistent operational capacity.

Curriculum

- **Short-term Goal to support deliver focused education and flight training that equips students with the essential skills for profession piloting careers, fostering leaders ready**

to excel in the dynamic aviation field, culminating in a Bachelor of Commercial Aviation degree with a major in Flight Operations: Align curriculum with FAA Part 141 Modernization Plan in light of the AABI requirements for aviation core outcomes and program-specific criteria.

- **Analysis of Results:** Participated and monitored the plan development. Completed first round revision of Flight Operations Manual.
- **Improvement Plans:** Develop a comprehensive transition plan in anticipation of final adoption of the new rules.

Faculty and Staff

- **Faculty Goal:** Foster continuous professional development to ensure faculty stay current with industry advancements and best teaching practices as outlined by completing 100% of their SMART Goals for Professional Development, which must at least include one professional conference or workshop each year, either in person, or virtually.
- **Analysis of Results:** Faculty attended a mix of AABI, UAA, MAA and online events. Supported the AviNation event in Aberdeen, MS.
- **Improvement Plans:** Fund the attendance of one conference for each full-time faculty member, and up to \$250 of approved reimbursable development expenses for each adjunct faculty for the 2026-27 academic year.
- **Professional Growth for Flight Instructor Staff Goal:** Provide opportunities for staff professional development to enhance their skills and expertise.
- **Analysis of Results:** An internal audit revealed that we had insufficient quantity of part-time instructors to manage the increased enrollment capacity without working more than the number of hours per week allowed by the institution's policy.
- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. Re-organized part-time instructor pay effective January 1, 2026 to include up to 40 hours per week and included benefits.
 - b. Committed to secure flight instructor membership in national CFI organizations for each instructor
 - c. Supported budget to complete the multi-engine instructor (MEI) add-on for key personnel
 - d. Hired two new full-time staff instructors and one new full-time assistant chief instructor.

Facilities, Equipment, and Services

- **Modernizing Training and Classroom Facilities Goal:** Upgrade and expand training facilities and classrooms to provide state-of-the-art environments for both aviation management and flight operations education.
- **Analysis of Results:** Insufficient instructor briefing space and offices at flight ops departing. and The Gibson-Gunn academic flooring is worn and the lecture hall has broken seats. The instructional resources are dated. The university has been leasing extra hanger space to accommodate the added fleet at the airport.
- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. The University shifted its master facility plan to prioritize aviation and confirmed with the Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning (the governing body of public universities in the state) to develop a mission and plan for an approximate 25,000 sq ft new building and new hanger to support flight ops.
 - b. Issued a contract to an architect to draft remodeling plans for the Gibson-Gunn academic building, with an anticipated budget of at least \$500,000
- **Upgrading Aviation Equipment and Technology Goal:** Continuously update and maintain aviation fleet, equipment and technology to ensure cutting-edge training resources for both programs.

- **Analysis of Results:** Student feedback from stage checks suggested the transition from analog to glass panel for instrument was challenging. We have only analog FSTDs for Instrument training. We have only whiteboards and projectors for academic classrooms and could use equipment and training aids for the following courses: Air Traffic Control, meteorology, aerodynamics.
- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. Plan to create an RFP in Fall 2026 for an ATC simulator for classroom use, with a budget for under \$100k and scalable.
 - b. Added \$5K budget from designated funds for equipment for the meteorology and aerodynamics courses to be invested in 2026-27.
 - c. Requested \$2 million of earmark federal funding for multi-engine fleet upgrade, anticipated for allocation in 2028 or 2029.

Aviation Safety Culture and Program

- **Enhance Culture of Safety Goal:** Complete a safety culture audit and flight ops safety audit annually.
- **Analysis of Results:** Program found to be well run and regulatory compliant through an outside vendor with recommendations to enhance the SMS system to adapt to forthcoming best practices under Part 141 Modernization Plan. Maintenance found to be FAA compliant with records but recommended adding a Maintenance Manual/SOP and QA process for maintenance as a best practice. Plus, expedite repair of hanger door.
- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. Fully deploy Garmin SMS Software.
 - b. Convert the Safety Manager from part-time to full-time with specific duties to include enhancing safety culture.
 - c. Collaborate with the maintenance staff to develop a working plan for a standard operating procedure, per the recommendation of the assessment.
 - d. Develop and deploy a safety culture climate survey annually, track trends, and make adjustments accordingly.

Relations with Industry

- **Advance Industry-Informed Curriculum Through Re-Engaged Industry Advisory Board Goal:** Re-engage Industry Advisory Board with at least one annual meeting.
- **Analysis of Results:** Board chair appointed and first meeting feedback included need for enhance efforts to recruit a Chair; consider FAA Part 141 Modernization plan; diversify program offerings; and noted the urgency to address sufficient leadership and facilities resources to support the growing program.
- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. The University announced that in 2026-27 the College of Business and Aviation will split and a new Aviation unit will have its own Dean, with Dr. Joe Childs taking on that role. This plan helps to direct more focused leadership and prioritization for the aviation program at DSU.
 - b. Continue to monitor Part 141 modernization plan.
 - c. Make Ag aviation a new concentration in 2027, enhance curriculum for UAS and Air Traffic Control concentrations.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Foster an Inclusive Academic Environment by Expanding Student Affinity Groups Goal:** Twenty-five percent (25%) of students engaged in at least one organization as measured by two meetings or events per year.
- **Analysis or Results:** Funded attendance to Women in Aviation International national conference in 2026 with semi-active WAI group. The faculty/staff sponsor has not been consistent, and communication between student leadership and students has been spotty. Alpha Eta Rho has established leadership and a growing membership but could use additional faculty/staff leadership.

American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) members attended national conference in 2025. We also don't yet have a robust way to assess and measure participation in affinity groups.

- **Improvement Plans:**
 - a. Identify group sponsors for one new affinity group launch in 2026-27.
 - b. Re-activate participation in Women's Air Race Classic participation.
 - c. Re-activate the flight competition team.

Conclusion

This assessment plan and process is designed to ensure continuous improvement, alignment with industry standards, and fulfillment of the program's mission and educational goals. By adhering to this comprehensive plan, the program will continue to provide exceptional education and training, preparing students for successful careers in the aviation industry.