Aviation managers apply business, management and professionalism to the field of aviation, working in a wide variety of administrative and management positions.
AVIATION MANAGEMENT

AVIATION MANAGEMENT AT SLU
Saint Louis University is the only Jesuit University with an Aviation Management program. Students are educated to manage airlines or direct corporate flight offices. They learn to make ethical decisions that contribute to their personal and professional goals and allow them to enrich the community in which they work.

Students customize their educational tracks to fit their career goals. Undergraduates can minor in air traffic control, utilizing state-of-the-art simulation. Students also have the opportunity to gain actual flight experience and earn a private pilot’s certificate.

Saint Louis University is among select schools in the country to offer the Aviation Management degree through a traditional four-year undergraduate program. Students have the advantage of earning a technically advanced, industry-specific degree, without sacrificing the foundation of the undergraduate experience.

PROGRAM FEATURES
The Aviation Management program at SLU provides students with specialized knowledge of the aviation industry and a strong foundation in business administration. The program has many features that set it in a class of its own:

- The program emphasizes learner-centric education, utilizing problem-based learning. Students demonstrate a deeper understanding of their discipline and develop greater intellectual curiosity, confidence and engagement. This is a proven technique, central to all aviation management courses.
- The Center for Aviation Safety Research at Parks allows students to participate in groundbreaking exploration under the direction of top-notch faculty. The Center was established by the United States Congress and is funded by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- Well-qualified students can earn their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years and can continue on to earn a doctorate in aviation.
- Students take advantage of mentorship opportunities, pairing with local industry leaders through the St. Louis Regional Business Council or by interacting with noteworthy alumni at the Parks Leadership Academy series.
- With a fleet of aircraft at the St. Louis Downtown Airport and a strong relationship with nearby Lambert International Airport, students have excellent internship and co-op opportunities.
- A low student-to-faculty ratio ensures undergraduates the opportunity for meaningful interaction with their professors.
- The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) allows students to study specific topics of interest under the direction of a faculty member, while receiving a stipend.
- Students can gain valuable career development and networking opportunities through Alpha Eta Rho, an international collegiate aviation fraternity with an alumni base of more than 45,000 professionals.
- The Parks Chapter of Women in Aviation is an active group, hosting fun and educational events, volunteering at local charities and attending regional and national conferences.

INDUSTRY INTERACTION
Known as the “first in flight education,” Parks College has a history of educating the brightest in the aviation industry for more than 80 years. Employers from all facets of aviation recognize Parks’ record of excellence and seek out graduates for their technical proficiency and ethical responsibility.

Aviation managers apply business, management and aviation knowledge while working in administrative and management positions at an array of organizations, such as aircraft manufacturers, airports, higher education institutions and airlines. The breadth of the educational experience also allows students to pursue positions outside aviation in other technical fields. A major advantage of earning an aviation management degree is the capability of understanding and speaking the industry’s technical parlance. This makes a strong impression during the interview process, as employers often only expect such knowledgeable interaction from experienced professionals.
WHY I CAME TO PARKS

“I transferred to SLU after a year at Northwestern University to follow my lifelong passion for aviation. I was drawn to Parks’ rich history and reputation. I was enthralled with the fact that Parks was the first federally certificated flight school in the nation and quickly learned that the long list of notable alumni cover the vast spectrum of the industry. Understanding the impact that these leaders and innovators have had on the college and the industry, I was inspired to make my own mark.

During my time at Parks, I served as Executive Vice President and President of the Association of Parks College Students and worked to revitalize the Parks College Chapter of Alpha Eta Rho International Aviation Fraternity. Working with other students, alumni and the National Office, I was able to increase active membership by five times. Established in 1929, Alpha Eta Rho is a professional collegiate aviation fraternity. Being actively involved not only allowed me to fulfill my career goals, it also gave me an opportunity to fulfill the Jesuit mission by giving back.

The educational and extracurricular opportunities I have had at Parks College have allowed me to become actively involved in the aviation industry and emerge as a leader in the academic community. Ultimately, Parks has given me the chance to pursue my dreams”

-Anthony Johnson, aviation management major

FEATURED ALUM

Christopher Carmody is a 2002 Parks alum. He dual majored in Flight Science and Aviation Management. He also earned a business certificate from the John Cook School of Business. Carmody’s pilot certifications include his Commercial Pilot’s Certificate for both Multi-Engine and Single-Engine Land, and he is an FAA Certified Flight Instructor, Instrument Instructor and Multi-Engine Instructor.

While at SLU, Carmody worked in flight operations for Anheuser Busch at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport and served as a Southwest Airlines Flight Operations Intern in Dallas, Texas. Following graduation, Carmody was a flight instructor in Topeka and Kansas City, and served as Assistant Manager of the Flight Academy at Kansas City Aviation Center (KCAC) at the Johnson County Executive Airport in Olathe, Kansas.

Today, Carmody is the Regional Director of Sales at KCAC for Piper and Diamond Aircraft and is actively involved as a Parks alum.

FEATURED STUDENT GROUP

Parks College Flying Billikens is an award-winning and active student organization at Saint Louis University. Recently, the Flying Billikens attended the Region VI SAFECON competition in Oklahoma and had a strong showing with a first place finish in the navigation competition and a second and third place finish in the preflight competition. Members include not only pilots, but also aviation enthusiasts from all backgrounds.

In addition to competing, the organization also devotes time to giving back. Members volunteer at Wings of Hope, located at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, and sponsor tutoring sessions for aviation students at Parks who need extra help.
ABOUT PARKS COLLEGE

Several global challenges have emerged as opportunities for engineering and aviation students of Saint Louis University to make a difference, to apply their education in a context that is technically brilliant, socially responsible and uniquely enterprising, and to ultimately make the world a better, more inclusive place.

As technology alters every facet of our lives, aviation scientists, computer specialists and engineers are more in demand than ever. SLU’s Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology has a worldwide reputation for its aviation and engineering programs. Our alumni have touched every NASA mission, developed patented technology for wind energy and won national and international awards.

“I invite you to make an appointment for a personal tour. Our faculty, staff and students will be delighted to show you around and answer your questions.”

K. Ravindra, Ph.D., Interim Dean

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