

→ Four-Year Degree Opportunities for BBCC Aviation Students →

BBCC flight students have always tended to pursue a four-year degree. One major drive for this is that the major airlines have given preference to those with the degree. During the two years that BBCC students are learning to fly, they usually complete the Associate of Arts and Science (AA&S) transfer degree. This gives them the opportunity to transfer to any four-year institution and complete a degree of their choice. The Flight program has the philosophy that it may be wise to get a degree in another discipline, so that you have an alternate skill to use if you need to leave the aviation career. While the airlines prefer a degree, they usually don't care what subject you major in.

The following is a list of five options BBCC Aviation students have to complete their Baccalaureate degree. Essential to most of these options is the completion of the Associate of Arts and Science (AA&S) transfer degree. This is a powerful academic transfer tool and is basically the general education requirements of most all four-year degrees. It is almost always the best choice for flight students by preparing them for transfer, and showing that the student is capable of being a successful completer.

Option #1 Transferring to any four-year institution.

As always, BBCC flight students may transfer to any College or University and continue their education. Usually you will enter with "Junior" status. Occasionally, a program of choice will have "pre-requisites," meaning that certain courses must be completed before you will be allowed to enter that field of study. Once you know which college you will attend, notify your advisor both at that college and the flight program, so that the required classes will be completed as part of your AA&S degree.

This option will usually not be in aviation and will give you greater flexibility so that you have more than one area of expertise to use in your professional career.

Option #2 Stay at Big Bend and Complete a Bachelor of Science Degree

Central Washington University has begun a program teaching the required upper division courses necessary for their Flight Technology degree here on our campus. They use the Big Bend Community College classrooms and teach one or two courses each term. Students who complete this option will receive a degree in Flight Technology from CWU while staying in Moses Lake.

Option #3 Transferring to Central Washington University's Flight Technology Program.

Central Washington University (CWU) has a Bachelor of Science degree in Flight Technology. This degree prepares the student for a career in Aviation. Students select one of three technical specializations leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. The curriculum in Flight Technology is designed to provide a solid foundation in the liberal arts as well as a thorough education and training in a technical discipline. Students choosing this option combine their flight training received from Big Bend with the upper division courses in Flight Technology at CWU and have a strong career preparation, recognized throughout the industry.

Another option is to minor in Flight Technology at CWU. You would major in another subject of choice offered by CWU.

Option #4 Transferring to Central Washington University's branch campus in Moses Lake

In 1999, CWU began offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration on the BBCC campus. It offers the student a non-aviation type degree that can be achieved while in Moses Lake or in Seattle. The degree can be tailored to the flight student, and can begin while you are here the first two years or, during the third year while you obtain additional pilot training (CFI, multi, seaplane, etc.) with Big Bend. If you are selected as a Junior CFI at BBCC this option appears almost tailor-made for you. Classes are offered in the evenings and weekends. If you later get a job flying in the Seattle area, CWU has two campuses on the West Side (one at Seatac, and one in Kent).

This option allows you to work on a Bachelor of Science degree while in Moses Lake and have the option to finish in Seattle or in Ellensburg. The program does have pre-requisites of which aviation advisors can inform you, and CWU has a director for the program on the BBCC campus, in the ATEC building.

Option #5 Transferring to an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Learning Center.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) has over one hundred learning centers worldwide. They are usually located at military bases and recently at community colleges. ERAU has several centers in Washington: Fairchild AFB, Whidbey NAS, McCord AFB, Ft. Lewis, Renton, South Seattle Community College, and a center in Everett. These centers use the "non-traditional" classroom, meaning that classes usually meet in the evenings and weekends, so the student can work during the day. The classes are usually smaller in number and have students who are older and directed toward their career. They are not looking for the college social activities, but want to learn in a serious environment and work full-time.

Since the center uses a lot of adjunct faculty, the number of course offerings and degrees are limited. You usually get on "track" for a certain degree and take the classes when offered in the cycle. The more popular degree offered prepares the flight student for a degree in management with a strong aviation concentration, and it gives the student the strong, recognized name of Embry-Riddle.

Certain classes are known to be required, and BBCC teaches them. Your advisor can direct you toward those classes so that you complete them as part of your AA&S degree.

Another option with ERAU is their "Distance Learning" courses. These are correspondent in nature and can be used entirely or in conjunction with the Learning Centers. You have a set time allowed to finish the course and take tests on schedule from proctors assigned to monitor your progress.

Option #6 Transfer to an ERU campus in Florida or Arizona.

This option is available to BBCC students and gives the student full access of degree options offered by ERAU at their Daytona Beach, Florida campus, or the Prescott, Arizona campus. This could be a professional pilot degree as well as a more traditional type degree. We have had students in the past choose this option and they have had the campus experience of a large university.