

PURDUE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF AVIATION AND TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY

# PROSPECTIVE STUDENT FAQ

Thank you for your interest in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology (SATT) at Purdue University. If you have additional questions, contact our office at **765.496.6750** or **aviation@purdue.edu**.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **What classes do SATT students need to take?**

Purdue offers a general plan of study along with other required aviation courses. Review the “Plan of Study” tab on each of our seven majors’ webpages (*polytechnic.purdue.edu/at*). However, remember that plans of study can be different for each student. Purdue students work with an academic advisor each semester, beginning the summer before their first year, to plan semester and four-year schedules.

### **Can students double major or minor?**

Obtaining a double major can be difficult, especially for students in aeronautical engineering technology (AET) and professional flight technology, due to the time spent in labs and flying. It is possible, but could require staying an additional semester or longer. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor to add an additional major.

Minors can easily fit into a student’s curriculum. SATT has only one major, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), which can be an added minor. There are more than one hundred minor options at Purdue for a student to pursue. Students work with academic advisors to incorporate a minor into their curriculum.

### **Where are classes held?**

Except for labs and a few large classes, all aviation courses take place in the Niswonger Aviation Technology Building (NISW) at the Purdue University Airport. Flight labs, aeronautical engineering technology labs and UAS labs are also located in Niswonger or around the airport in surrounding buildings/hangars.

The Purdue University Airport, located on the south side of campus, is the first university-owned airport in the United States. Education buildings at our airport include flight simulators, engine and flight labs, hangars, classrooms, computing labs and lecture halls.

Map: [purdue.edu/campus\\_map](http://purdue.edu/campus_map)

### **What technology is required for SATT students?**

During their first semester, all SATT students receive an Electronic Purdue Bag (EPB). The EPB includes an iPad to be used throughout their years as a student. Professional flight students receive a Flight Packet in the mail, with information on any additional technology needed for flight courses, and the iPad they receive in the EPB will include the software needed for flight labs.

### **How do SATT students get around campus?**

Purdue students receive fare-free access to the CityBus system ([www.gocitybus.com](http://www.gocitybus.com)) with a valid Purdue student identification card (PUID). The bus runs between the residence halls and the airport from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and completes its loop at the airport approximately every 20 minutes.

Besides campus, the CityBus system serves nine routes throughout Greater Lafayette.

A limited number of parking passes might be available for purchase from Purdue University Parking; see [purdue.edu/parking](http://purdue.edu/parking).

## AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (AET) MAJOR

### Do students earn an Airframe and Powerplant certification with their AET degree?

The AET major courses can qualify a student to test for their Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certification. Students can add three classes to their curriculum, which will provide extended skills and knowledge needed for the A&P exam. The A&P is taken after graduation and consists of an oral, written and practical exam.

### What job opportunities are available to AET students?

An AET student could work in industries such as:

- » General aviation, such as corporate flight operations, direct maintenance, technical sales, operations management, etc.
- » Transport/aviation, including airline maintenance management, maintainability engineering, program management, process planning and management, etc.
- » Aviation/aerospace/space manufacturers – design support, production support, fleet management and support, quality assurance, supplier management, tooling design, repair process development, etc.
- » Military/government – military operations, new vehicle development, military flight, regulatory compliance, etc.

## PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT TECHNOLOGY (PROFLIGHT) MAJOR

### What kind of training aircraft do Purdue students use?

Purdue has a fleet of 15 Cirrus SR20s, four Piper Arrows, two Piper Seminoles and an Embraer Phenom 100 Corporate Light Jet. Beginning fall 2020, students will utilize a new fleet of 13 Piper Archers for their private and commercial pilot certificates and Instrument Rating.

### When do students fly Purdue's aircraft?

- » Cirrus SR20: Private Pilot Certificate training, Instrument Rating, first two courses of Commercial Training practice and all solo flights throughout training.
- » Piper Arrow: Commercial certificate and complex endorsement training.
- » Piper Seminole: Multi-engine rating training.
- » Embraer Phenom 100: At least six hours of training prepare students for flying light turbine transport aircraft in the real world. This training includes one cross-country flight to the student's approved destination of choice.

### What are the flight costs and fees?

ProFlight fee information is available online at [polytechnic.purdue.edu/flight](http://polytechnic.purdue.edu/flight). Refer to the Purdue University bursar for information on tuition, room and board, and other university fees.

### How does a student transfer into/out of Professional Flight?

Transfers to/from the ProFlight major are determined on a case-by-case basis. Students also have the option to enroll in other majors and train at Purdue Aviation LLC, a fixed-base operations center that provides flight training outside the University system.

### With how many flight hours does a ProFlight student graduate?

A successful student will earn approximately 200 flight hours with their required flight coursework. If a student obtains their Certified Flight Instructor certificate and is hired by SATT, they could potentially graduate with 400-500 flight hours, depending on their instructor availability each semester.

## PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

### Is there an advantage to getting a Private Pilot Certificate before classes begin?

The Private Pilot Certificate is the only training Purdue allows students to pursue outside of our flight programs. Admitted students who already have their Private Pilot Certificate have the opportunity to test out of Private Pilot Ground Lectures (AT 144) and the Private Pilot Flight Lab (AT 145), earning those credits in the process.

**Note:** Depending on their location, it could be more (or less) cost-efficient for students to earn their Private Pilot Certificate outside of the Purdue program.

### **What is the process to test out?**

On the Friday before classes begin, students take a private pilot written exam and go for a check-out flight with an instructor. Students who pass both the exam and the flight are placed into Commercial Flight training (AT 243) and receive credit for their private pilot courses. For a week or two, these students also work with a certified flight instructor to ensure proficiency in the Cirrus, practicing basic maneuvers, before moving on to commercial lessons.

## **ATP AND RESTRICTED ATP (R-ATP)**

### **What is ATP?**

ATP stands for Airline Transport Pilot certificate, which is required for any individual flying for an airline. This certificate requires 1,500 hours of flight time. (Note: The majority of professional pilots are required to have an ATP certificate to work for any company. Most companies will provide the training once applicants chosen meet the ATP requirements.)

### **Do students earn their ATP at Purdue?**

No, students do not earn their ATP at Purdue. Airlines provide ATP training to the pilots they hire once the pilots meet the minimum requirements.

### **What is R-ATP?**

Because Purdue's Professional Flight Program meets specific FAA standards and requirements, our students have the privilege of qualifying for the FAA's Restricted ATP certificate. The R-ATP allows pilots graduating from our program to obtain their ATP certificate once they reach 1,000 flight hours instead of the ATP-required 1,500 hours.

### **Can a student lose his or her R-ATP certificate?**

Yes, students can lose their R-ATP certificate. Training for instrument rating or a commercial certificate outside of Purdue, or before beginning the Purdue program, can result in loss of a student's R-ATP privileges. The Private Pilot Certificate is the only training Purdue allows students to pursue outside of our flight programs.

## **MEDICAL**

### **What medical certificates does Purdue require for flight students?**

Purdue requires students to have at least a third-class medical certificate upon starting the flight program. However, we recommend that students get a first-class medical certificate before beginning the program.

### **Why does Purdue recommend a first-class medical certificate?**

All airlines require a first-class medical certificate for their pilots. By obtaining this certificate before flight training begins, students can confirm that they are medically eligible to fly for an airline.

**If you have questions, contact our office at 765.496.6750 or [aviation@purdue.edu](mailto:aviation@purdue.edu).**