Aviation
Master of Science

The Aviation Department offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Science degree. The M.S. in Aviation degree provides the necessary educational background for aviation industry professionals to solve problems within the field of aviation including the airlines, corporate aviation, general aviation, and airport management. Graduates will gain an understanding of the various complexities facing the industry through a breadth of aviation industry related courses. In addition, graduates will gain an understanding of statistics and research methods, and how they may be applied to research and solving problems within the aviation industry. The program will provide graduates with the knowledge and skills that prepare them for the aviation industry, aviation related government positions and for further research and development in the field of aviation.

Mission Statement and Program Goals
The mission of the Aviation Department graduate program is to provide quality educational experiences to students that promote critical thinking and foster an intellectual environment conducive to exemplary research, scholarship and creativity among graduate students and faculty in an effort to provide problem-solving professionals to aviation industry employers.

Goal 1: Develop aviation professionals who use their technical and theoretical skills to solve problems within the aviation industry.
Goal 2: Develop a student's higher-order thinking abilities and instill a quest for lifelong learning.
Goal 3: Develop a scholarly set of skills that will allow the student to function in a professional manner.
Goal 4: Students will be able to write at an advanced level.
Goal 5: Students will be able to effectively present their ideas using a variety of media.
Goal 6: Students will be able to critically think, analyze and evaluate all types of information available in today's global society.

Admission Requirements
The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

1. Bachelor’s degree in Aviation/Aeronautics or Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution--a minimum of 20 semester credits of appropriate aviation related undergraduate work.
2. Graduate Record Examination, General Test.
3. Overall undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or a GPA of at least 3.00 for the last two years of undergraduate work.
4. Aviation industry experience, which can include any Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificates (pilot, mechanic, air traffic, dispatch, ground, etc.) or applied aviation industry knowledge.
5. Students must submit a 2-3 page paper answering specific questions per departmental guidelines. One of the questions will address the potential thesis or independent study topic. Students that do not possess an FAA certificate must submit a 2-3 page paper/resume outlining their aviation industry experience.
6. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Degree Requirements

1. Required Core Courses are as follows:
2. A minimum of 30 credits including the 4-credit thesis option, or a minimum of 32 credit hours including comprehensive exams and the 2-credit independent study option. Approval of the thesis option will be granted based upon alignment of research interest with departmental faculty’s research interests and faculty availability.
3. Comprehensive exams are required for those choosing the Independent Study option.
4. Courses 510 – 590 should be taken after the required “core” courses are completed.

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

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Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
5. Follow the Graduate Catalog and Graduate Student Handbook, Master’s Degree for completion of:
   a. Program of Study
   b. Advisor Selection
   c. Independent Study/Thesis Option
   d. Topic Proposal
6. AVIT 590 Aviation Seminar and AVIT 593 Individual Research in Aviation can be taken with permission from a sponsoring faculty member.
7. Must have an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0
8. In addition to the required core courses, students will have selected elective courses or from other UND-approved graduate courses. Please see the academic catalog for a list of courses.

**Domestic Air Law Specialization**
The Master of Science program currently offers an area of specialization in Domestic Air Law in collaboration with the UND School of Law. In order to receive this specialization, the student must:

1. Be fully admitted to the UND School of Graduate Studies and be in good academic standing in the MS-Aviation program;
2. Have completed AVIT 501 General Issues in Aviation/Aerospace, AVIT 502 Aviation Economics and AVIT 503 Statistics and be in their second year of the MS-Avit program;
3. Receive permission from the Aviation Graduate Program Director;
4. Successfully complete 9 credits of coursework in the UND School of Law including LAW 210 and 6 credits from other UND School of Law coursework

**Faculty and Areas of Expertise**

- **Ernest Anderson**, Associate Professor: Aviation Enforcement Law, Public Policy & Regulations and Helicopter Training
- **Elizabeth Bjerke** Ph.D., Associate Professor: Issues in Aviation and Research Methods
- **John Bridewell**, Ph.D., Professor: Unmanned Aerial Systems
- **Paul Drechsel**, M.S., Associate Professor: Air Traffic Control
- **Jim Higgins**, M.S., ATP Associate Professor: Airline Labor Relations, Statistics
- **Warren C. Jensen**, M.D., Professor: Aerospace Medicine, Human Factors
- **Kim Kenville**, Ph.D., C.M., Professor: Economics, Organizational Behavior, and Airport Planning
- **Paul Lindseth**, Ph.D., Professor: Research Methods, Capstone
- **Kent Lovelace**, M.S., Professor: Education and Training
- **Tom Petros**, Ph.D., Professor: Psychology, Statistics
- **Charles Robertson**, Ph.D., Associate Professor: Information Technology, Instructional Design
- **Bruce Smith**, Ph.D., Dean and Professor: Instructional and Training Systems Design
- **Gary Ullrich**, M.S., Associate Professor: Safety Management Systems
- **Brett D. Venhuizen**, J.D., Associate Professor: Law
- **Bill Watson** J.D., Assistant Professor: Advanced Safety Management, Helicopter Training

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**The Master’s degree in Aviation is a synchronous online learning environment.**

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