



Jan. 17, 2024

Aviation Management — Professional Pilot fact sheet

- Cooperative effort of Saint Vincent College (SVC), Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) and Laurel Highlands Aeronautical Academy. Students may reside at SVC during all years of study.
- Students will earn a pilot's license, a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management — Professional Pilot degree from SVC alongside an associate's degree from CCBC within a four-year timeframe.
- Students will gain piloting skills by logging flight hours at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe, five minutes down the road from the SVC campus, and will be trained in a broad base of business disciplines, preparing them for various organizational and administrative roles.
- The number of pilots is expected to decrease by 50% over the next 15 years due to retirements (Source: Forbes Magazine, July 24, 2023). Boeing estimates 127,000 new pilots will be needed by 2044 (Source: CBS Eye on America, Jan. 1, 2024).
- The average salary for a commercial pilot (photography, banner towing, flight instruction) is \$127,000. A senior pilot with an airline makes on average \$201,000. (Source: Glassdoor).
- Among current graduates in the McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government at Saint Vincent College, 99% are either employed or working toward an advanced degree within one year of graduation.
- Saint Vincent College's aviation history dates back to 1929, when it became the first school in the U.S. to offer flying instruction. The college had its own biplane called the Spirit of Saint Vincent. During World War II, Saint Vincent graduated several classes of U.S. Army airmen.
- Named by American Airlines as a top innovative aviation organization, CCBC's aviation programs have placed professional pilots with every major airline in the United States and air-traffic controllers in every FAA control tower in the country.
- Laurel Highlands Aeronautical Academy operates an FAA-certified flight school and has a fleet of 12 aircraft.

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