Ohio | Department of Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

INITIAL INQUIRY
REQUEST TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM

Date of submission: October 28, 2019

Name of institution: Kent State University

Primary institutional contact for this request:
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Name of program: Aviation Maintenance Management major, Bachelor of Science degree

Classification of Instructional Program (CIP): **47.0607 Airframe Mechanics and Aircraft Maintenance Technology/ Technician.** A program that prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to repair, service, and maintain all aircraft components other than engines, propellers, avionics, and instruments. Includes instruction in layout and fabrication of sheet metal, fabric, wood, and other materials into structural members, parts, and fittings, and replacement of damaged or worn parts such as control cables and hydraulic units.

Proposed start date: Fall 2020
Start date is contingent upon final approval from the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission.

Type of request:
☐ New degree designation at Kent State
☒ New major within an existing degree at Kent State

Delivery options:
☐ Campus-based
☒ Online/hybrid delivery
☐ Flexible or accelerated delivery
☐ Offering the program at a new offsite location
☐ Offering the program at an existing offsite location
☐ Program contains off-campus experiences (e.g., internship, clinical, student teaching)

The institution will be seeking specialized accreditation for the program:

☐ No ☒ Yes

Kent State will seek approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a Part 147[1] component, in addition to accreditation from the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) for the degree program.

Provide a brief description of the request.

The College of Aeronautics and Engineering is proposing a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Management to prepare individuals who want to become technicians and managers in the field of aeronautics. The objective for the program will be to provide students with a working knowledge of aircraft repair, aviation technologies, aviation safety programs and aviation management concepts.

The proposed degree program will be offered in collaboration with Kent State's Ashtabula Campus, which has aviation maintenance courses that satisfy requirements for the airframe and powerplant certificate granted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The College of Aeronautics and Engineering and the Ashtabula Campus will work together to establish partnerships with aviation maintenance technician schools that offer FAA-approved airframe and powerplant maintenance programs but do not award degrees. Graduates from those schools will be able to transfer their coursework to earn an Associate of Technical Studies degree (Individualized Program major) from the Ashtabula Campus.

Once students have earned the two-year A.T.S. degree, they will be able to continue at Kent State for the next two years in the proposed B.S. degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, which will be offered hybrid (online/on-ground) at the Kent Campus and fully online. The online delivery will be ideal for students who do not want to relocate and/or are working full time.

The future goal of the collaboration between the College of Aeronautics and Engineering and the Ashtabula Campus is to earn the FAA designation as a Part 147 airframe and powerplant school. However, the implementation and future offering of the proposed B.S. degree is not dependent upon Kent State being designated as a Part 147 school.

Explain the academic unit's rationale for making the request.

As new generation airplanes become more prominent in the global fleet, advances in airplane technology will drive demand for a new set of skills, such as digital troubleshooting and composites repair. Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, projects that 769,000 new maintenance technicians will be needed worldwide in the next 20 years.[2]

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[1] Part 147 refers to the section of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding certificated aviation maintenance technician schools, see 14 C.F.R. § 147 (2019). Retrieved from www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2019-title14-vol3/xml/CFR-2019-title14-vol3-part147.xml.

[2] Boeing (2019). 2019-2038 Boeing Pilot and Technician Outlook. Retrieved from www.boeing.com/commercial/market/pilot-technician-outlook.

A report from the Aviation Technician Education Council[3] notes that aviation mechanics continue to retire faster than they are being replaced, and that educators have the capacity to close that difference, with only one in two seats in technician schools being filled. Conversations held between the college, the Ashtabula Campus, technician schools and companies for aircraft maintenance, repair and operations indicate that students are more attracted to this field if there are academic degrees associated with the program. Likewise, companies are interested not only in filling their maintenance technician shortages, but also the gaps they will face in management when retirements occur.

The College of Aeronautics and Engineering, in partnership with the Ashtabula Campus, is uniquely poised to respond to the demand to educate future aircraft maintenance technicians, specialists and mangers. The college is already approved by the FAA for flight training and aircraft dispatcher. The college's bachelor's degree in aeronautics is the only program in Ohio to be accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International. The program also is the only one in Ohio (and one of 36 programs in the country) to be approved and designated by the FAA as an Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative Program.

Indicate whether additional resources (e.g., faculty, staff, facilities, technology) will be needed to support the proposed request.

The college anticipates the hiring need of two full-time faculty to develop and teach the online curriculum for the two-year B.S. degree program. Some of the courses that will be required in the program are currently existing and required for the college's B.S. degree in Aeronautics.

The college is the primary operator at the Kent State University airport at which construction recently completed on a $7 million, 17,800-square-foot academic center funded in part by the FedEx Corporation. The new airport facility includes classrooms, flight debriefing rooms, four new flight simulators and a faculty research laboratory.

[3] Aviation Technical Education Council (2018). The 2018 Pipeline Report. Retrieved from www.atec-amt.org/pipeline-report.html.