

Eaton RESA Aviation Careers Institute Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Aviation Careers Institute (ACI)?

The Aviation Careers Institute (ACI) was established to give students a firsthand look at the aviation industry, explore career opportunities, and begin education and training to become a pilot or other aviation industry professional.

Why is the ACI needed?

The aviation industry is facing an unprecedented shortage of pilots, with an estimated 600,000 new pilots needed over the next 20 years. In addition, other aviation careers including mechanics, air traffic controllers, airport managers and personnel, airfield operations specialists and engineers, will also be needed in great numbers.

Age-based retirement and attrition, as well as fleet growth and demand, have impacted the need to build a talent pipeline for aviation careers.

How can students receive program updates about events and registration?

Complete this [short form](#) to begin receiving program updates and enrollment information.

What type of classes and training will students receive in ACI?

Students will take part in classroom lessons and utilize flight simulators to learn the basics of flight, plane management and ground school.

In addition to classroom instruction, the course gives students the opportunity to:

- Meet with experts in aeronautics and take field trips
- Learn about aircraft controls and maintenance
- Experience an aviation flight simulator
- Fly in an airplane with a certified pilot
- Earn direct college credit

Flight time is not covered as part of the Eaton RESA program. Please see below for more information about flight lessons, costs for flight lessons, and possible loans to help pay for flight lessons.

Who can apply to attend the ACI?

The program is open to high school juniors and seniors, in Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton counties. It is important for students in Ingham and Clinton counties to speak with their school counselor to ensure all requirements are met and followed for enrollment approval.

How do students apply?

Students must complete this short interest [form](#) to begin receiving program updates and enrollment information. We plan to hold an open house in January and invite students and parents to the airport so they can ask questions. Students can begin registering for this program in early February through their counselor/Career Development Coordinator or their normal enrollment process.

Students will be notified of program enrollment in early spring. If there are more students interested than seats available, students will be notified as such. Students may be added to a waiting list depending on demand.

Where is the ACI located?

The ACI is located inside the Capital Region International Airport.

Is this a one or two year program?

This is intended to be a one year program.

Do students earn high school credit for attending the ACI?

Yes. Like all Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, students will attend a two-hour block of classroom time in the morning or afternoon as part of their full school day earning credit for high school completion.

Can students earn college credit by attending the ACI?

All career and technical education programs are connected to a post-secondary partner that offers some type of college credit. We are currently reviewing post-secondary partner options and will make a selection soon.

What is the cost of attending the ACI?

Classroom instruction, simulator seat time and all necessary classroom materials for the program will be included as part of the Eaton RESA ACI program. If a student chooses to pursue a pilot's license, and the flight lessons required to earn it, all flight time and associated costs are the responsibility of the student.

Do students earn a pilot's license by attending the ACI?

No, school districts are not permitted to provide air flight instruction. Students will be connected to flight school partners if they choose to begin flying lessons and work toward earning a pilot's license. Students are responsible for all costs associated with air flight instruction and flight time.

How can students earn a pilot's license?

To fly a plane, students will have to accumulate a minimum number of flight hours, and more importantly, demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and skills in the aircraft to meet Federal Aviation Administration standards. The chart below outlines the steps a student would take to earn different types of licenses/ratings.

AVIATION CAREERS INSTITUTE FLIGHT TIME & INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS

	Private Rating	Instrument Rating	Commercial*	MEC (Multi-Engine Commercial) Rating	CFI (Instructor) Rating	CFII (Instrument Instructor) Rating	MEI (Multi-Engine Instructor) Rating
Flight Hours	70	30	100	25	15	10	15
Classroom Hours	90	90	80	40	70	20	20
Simulator Hours		30	10			10	
Total Industry Cost	\$18,000	\$14,000	\$25,000	\$14,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
Costs covered by Eaton RESA**	\$6,000						
Total Cost to CTE Students	\$12,000	\$14,000					
Cumulative Cost	\$12,000	\$26,000	\$51,000	\$65,000	\$73,000	\$78,000	\$86,000
Proposed Loan Schedule	\$6,000+\$6,000 \$12,000	\$7,000+\$7,000 \$14,000	\$25,000	\$14,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
	\$65,000				\$21,000		
1,500 hours of flight time are required for Air Transport Pilot (ATP) Certification. Additional flight time can be earned through instructing, banner towing, pipeline patrol, cargo transport, etc. and/or by completing instructor ratings.							

*Commercial Rating is different than a Commercial Airline Pilot. To be employed as an Air Transport Pilot (ATP)/Commercial Airline Pilot, candidates must complete 1,500 hours of flight time in addition to the required classroom and simulation hours through the Multi-Engine Commercial (MEC) Rating and be at least 21 years old.

**Costs covered by Eaton RESA include instructor and simulator hours, supplies and fees. If additional instructional hours are required outside of classtime, costs may be incurred by the student.

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Where can students take flying lessons?

Eaton RESA has partnered with Crosswinds Aviation to provide flight time and lessons for students to work toward earning a pilot's license. Crosswinds currently operates flight schools in Howell, Flint, Waterford and Ypsilanti with plans to add a location at the Capital Region International Airport.

What is the cost of flight lessons? Is there help available to pay the cost?

Flight time is not a covered cost as part of the Eaton RESA program. To help students continue to pursue their dreams of becoming a pilot, MSU Federal Credit Union has partnered with the ACI to offer students in the program opportunities to secure low-cost student loans. Through the Student Success Loan option, students can apply for student loans as they progress through different phases of their flight school training. Eaton RESA will provide ACI students who are interested in pursuing flight lessons with support to begin the loan process.