

Unit Evaluation

Aviation - 2009-2010

Unit Vision:

In the next ten years, the Aviation Program will grow to 100 students at a rate of 10% a year and will attain a reputation as a quality Aviation program that assures that graduates are prepared for successful careers in their Aviation field.

Unit Mission:

The mission of the ULM Aviation program is to prepare individuals to become competent, ethical, safety conscious aviation professionals, ready to assume leadership roles in various aviation careers or to continue their aviation education in air traffic management, dispatching, government, air transportation and other fields of aviation.

Alignment with University Mission:

The mission of the Aviation program helps ULM "[offer] a complete educational experience emphasizing a learning environment where excellence is the hallmark."

Explanation of changes made based on the [results and analysis](#) of the 2008-2009 cycle of assessment:

There has been a substantial change in the Aviation Studies Department due to employee turnover and faculty shortage that is forcing changes to the plan 3.1 and 3.2 that will go away and be replaced by new objectives. We have a new faculty chair, Mr Robert Corcoran and a new faculty member, Prashant Gurung that will oversee the Department. They are in the process of re-evaluating the program and making necessary changes to make better plans for the future. The changes sought will be reflected later as the semester progress, but for now no program operational changes will be reflected this year due to administrative and faculty turnover.

Goal #1:

Recruit, retain and prepare a diverse student body that will be prepared for productive careers as Aviation professionals.

Goal #1 Alignment with University Strategic Plan:

Goal 1 aligns with University Goal 4, "Enhance student growth and success" and its related strategy, "Encourage development of the student body, collectively and individually."

1.1 Outcomes/Objectives:

Invite interested students to the campus to see the improvements and to have a simulator demonstration.

Measure:

Faculty members of the Aviation program will visit at least one high school per semester and will attend each Browse, Prep, and other recruiting events with students.

Target:

Visit at least one high school per semester and work all recruiting events.

Timeframe for evaluation:

When possible.

Responsible Persons:

Chair

1.2 Outcomes/Objectives:

Increase student diversity by recruiting more females and minorities.

Measure:

Request demographic report from the Office of Institutional Research comparing last 4 years enrollment of Aviation majors.

Target:

Raise female and minority enrollment by at least 5%

Tactical Steps:

Have faculty visit high schools with high minority populations.
Ensure that current female and minority majors accompany faculty on high school visits whenever possible. Have female and minority majors (in addition to any male and/or Caucasian majors participating) attend campus recruitment events to talk to potential recruits whenever possible.

Timeframe for evaluation:

Fall 2010

Responsible Persons:

Chair

Goal #2:

Create and deliver a high quality Aviation program that will produce competent, safety conscious Aviation professionals.

Goal #2 Alignment with University Strategic Plan:

Goal 2 aligns with University Goal 3, "Enhance the academic learning environment" and its related strategy, "Provide degree programs that meet professional and intellectual needs of our students and stakeholders."

2.1 Outcomes/Objectives:

Maintain AABI accreditation by complying with requirements and making accurate yearly report of program progress.

Measure:

Target:

Completion

Timeframe for evaluation:

Yearly

Responsible Persons: Chair

2.2 Outcomes/Objectives:

Maintain high standards for future Aviation faculty

Measure:

Target:

Annually retrieve report from Faculty Activities Database which verifies faculty qualifications, membership in professional associations, and attendance at relevant scholarly and professional meetings.

Tactical Steps:

Require a graduate degree in Aviation or equivalent of all program faculty hires.
Require professional association membership of all new program faculty hires.
Seek funding for faculty attendance at professional meetings

Timeframe for evaluation: On going

Responsible Persons:

Chair

2.3 Outcomes/Objectives:

Continue to improve student learning in the program.

Measure:

All criteria or targets for success listed in the Student Learning Outcome matrix will be met by spring, 2012.

Target:

Completion

Tactical Steps:

Continue to improve student learning assessment program and process.
Set up a schedule of faculty meetings to discuss assessment results and identify potential areas for improvement.
Schedule an annual faculty curriculum review at the end of the spring semester.

Timeframe for evaluation:

Annually in fall

Responsible Persons:

Chair

2.4 Outcomes/Objectives:

Keep the simulators and classroom media in good repair and up to the latest standards

Measure:

Simulators and classroom media condition assessment.

Target:

Equipment functions as designed

Tactical Steps:

Assign one faculty person to be responsible for simulator maintenance.
Update simulators within budgetary restraints.

Timeframe for evaluation:

Annually in spring

Responsible Persons:

Chair

Goal #3:

Develop and maintain relationships with Aviation professionals to provide interaction between students, faculty, graduates and other Aviation professionals.

Goal #3 Alignment with University Strategic Plan:

Goal 4 aligns with University Goal 6, "Strengthen relationships with ULM constituencies" and its related strategy, "Expand working relationships with constituencies by creating a service culture."

3.1 Outcomes/Objectives:

Maintain close contact with graduates and other Aviation professionals via e-mail and telephone.

Measure:

Database Updates
Email

Target:

Completion

Tactical Steps:

Maintain a data base of graduates and other Aviation professionals with contact and career information. Periodically send electronic messages with news and information about the program.

Invite professionals to speak to various classes, such as Aviation Professionalism, Airport Operations, Commercial Ground Instruction, etc.

Timeframe for evaluation:

Database shall be updated no less than twice yearly. E-mail updates will be sent to contacts at least once per semester.

Responsible Persons:

Chair and faculty

3.2 Outcomes/Objectives:

Develop and implement a plan for student placement

Measure:

Devise a system to assist graduates with job placement

Target:

Completion

Tactical Steps:

Maintain a list of Aviation internships and encourage students to apply in order to enhance their career qualifications.

Work with Financial Aid to assist students financially with flight lessons.

Periodically request alumni to keep us informed about job openings in their areas

Timeframe for evaluation:

Annually in spring

Responsible Persons:

Chair

Results and Analysis:

1.1 All the simulators are malfunctioning. This is due to the sims being installed without the proper flooring protection. Only a few incentive rides in the sims were conducted.

Aviation faculty participated in all the university recruiting events, but did not make any high school visits. The faculty is short handed (by 1/3) and both members were new to their positions, so the work load did not permit the expected visitations.

1.2 Minority and female students have increased by the projected 5%.

2.1 The Faculty Chair attended the regional AABI conference and has begun working on the interim accreditation letter.

2.2 All aviation faculty attended multiple professional development courses, both have an active membership in AOPA.

Both the recent faculty hires have Master Degrees related to aviation, and both have extensive profession experience.

2.3 Most learning objectives were met this year.

2.4 The simulators are not functioning. The classrooms are in good repair and the classroom technology works well.

3.1 This was met.

3.2 This is not possible with only 2 faculty.

Explanation of changes made based on the results and analysis of the 2009-2010 cycle of assessment:

1.1 The flooring has been requested and funded. The sims are not going to be repaired until we have the proper protection in place.

Faculty now have one year experience and will make a greater effort to visit the surrounding high schools.

1.2 This goal was met. We will continue to maintain our efforts in this area.

2.1 We will have one course/ month reviewed for the AABI accreditation letter.

2.2 Both faculty will continue to maintain currency and flight ratings, maintain their professional affiliations, and at least one will join the American Association of Airport Executives.

2.3 We are incorporating the Gleim learning system into our program where we can. We will be using 3rd party testing software to help the students meet their learning objectives.

2.4 The proper flooring for the simulators has been ordered and should be installed shortly. There is no point in repairing the sims until the proper protection is in place.

3.1 No change

3.2 Will not be attempted until we are fully staffed.