HUMAN FACTORS AND SAFETY

The human factors and safety program prepares students for challenging careers and advanced education in human factors, safety and other related disciplines. Students are quickly exposed to topics like aviation physiology, human performance and the National Airspace System. This major is available as either a flight or non-flight program.

Why Human Factors and Safety at Florida Tech?
Studying aviation at Florida Tech is a very personal experience. Your instructors on campus and at the flight line will know you as a person, not just a face in the classroom or a name in the grade book. Our faculty is a mix of highly experienced pilots, scientists, and airport design and management experts. In addition to flight, pilot faculty members are also experts in at least one other area such as aviation law, safety, human factors, aviation business management or finance. Other faculty have experience in airport consulting, design and management, meteorology and air traffic control.

Your First-Year Experience
In your first year, you are immediately immersed in courses covering aviation basics, physiology and safety. Students of human factors and safety have the opportunity to work as part of a hands-on team to redesign an airplane cockpit. All students, including flight and non-flight majors, take a private pilot knowledge course and an aviation weather course their freshman year. Everyone learns about the FAA, air traffic and the National Airspace System, as well of the fundamentals of aircraft flight dynamics. All students may fly the desktop simulator in the computer lab any time they wish.

Unbeatable Location
Not only does sunny Melbourne offer 300+ days of flying weather annually—it’s also home to an international commercial airport (whose director is an FIT alumnus).

Tradition of Excellence
Florida Tech’s College of Aeronautics has been consistently recognized for offering one of the best (top five!) university-based aviation programs in the country.

Air Traffic Control
Human factors and safety students may opt to specialize in air traffic control so they can graduate ready to apply to the challenging FAA Academy.

CLUBS AND ORGS
- Collegiate Aviation Business Executives
- Women in Aviation International
- Falcons Intercollegiate Flight Team
- Air Traffic Control Club

EMPLOYERS
Human factors and safety alumni have the opportunity to work at airports, including Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson, Philadelphia International and Fort Lauderdale International; as consultants for local, state and national governments; and as human factors and safety analysts at major associations. Other employers include major airlines and manufacturers.
Excellent Facilities

Human factors and safety majors use the first-rate computer labs in the College of Aeronautics to study airport design and planning, noise analysis, and environmental analysis. Human factors and safety courses meet in Skurla Hall on the subtropical Melbourne campus. Skurla Hall includes classrooms, computer labs for airport design and planning, and the Basic Aviation Training Device (BATD) Lab. The BATD lab enables all students to fly desktop simulators under the supervision of a flight instructor for free. Skurla Hall is also home to the Air Traffic Control lab.

Internships

Students of human factors and safety are encouraged to take internships over a summer or another semester. Just a few of these opportunities include major airports, small airports, major and regional airlines, and a variety of businesses both aviation and not. Through internships, you gain specialized experience in airline operations, safety analysis and system design. Some airlines and organizations even offer students the opportunity to attend valuable development courses such as aircraft systems during their time with the company.

Accreditation

The human factors and safety and human factors and safety—flight majors are both accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International. University flight training and associated ground courses are conducted under the provisions of Federal Regulations 14CFR Part 141. Additionally, Florida Tech has been designated as a core team university for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Center of Excellence (COE) for General Aviation. The center focuses its research and testing efforts on safety, accessibility and sustainability to enhance the future of general aviation.

What's Next?

Between expert instructors, real-world relevant internship opportunities, an engaged alumni network and an excellent Career Management Services office, human factors and safety majors easily make critical contacts that help them get hired after graduation.

With a human factors and safety degree, non-flight option, you can work in aviation safety departments, product and system design teams, the National Transportation Safety Board or a variety of other aviation, human factors and safety related fields.

Human factors and safety majors who successfully complete the Air Traffic Control (AT-CTI) concentration are recommended to the FAA for hire as an air traffic controller.

Be a Flight Instructor

The flight instructor ground and flight courses can be taken as electives with the human factors and safety—flight major. FIT Aviation LLC hires students and recent graduates who have their CFI certificates as flight instructors, giving them the opportunity to gain professional experience and build flight time (hours). It is also a great way to offset the cost of flight fees and/or graduate studies.

Build Your Portfolio

Human factors and safety majors are encouraged to take part in research and other hands-on projects that build real-world experience that you can add to your résumé.

Competitive Edge

Florida Tech is a regular competitor in the National Intercollegiate Flight Competition and has won the safety award more than any other competing university.

One-of-a-Kind Focus

The human factors and safety program maintains a unique focus on human performance, system design and safety management.

Pilot Certificate Credit

Florida Tech allows advanced placement credit if you have an FAA Private Pilot Certificate or higher. Evaluation and placement is done during orientation week.

Florida Institute of Technology

High Tech with a Human Touch™

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