

# Middle Tennessee State University



## Flight Lab Guide

**The information contained in this publication  
is critically important to understanding  
the flight lab award process at MTSU.**

**Please read carefully and thoroughly.**

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## Overview

This guide is designed to assist students with obtaining a flight lab. Because of the various regulatory requirements, etc., the process is fairly complex. We have included a checklist within this guide to summarize all of the steps for convenience. For a more thorough explanation of each step, please review the appropriate section of this guide.

Students are only allowed in one flight lab at a time. Flight labs are requested by semester using an online form found on the department's webpage (see below). A new lab request is required for the subsequent semester in the rare instance a lab is not awarded. Lab requests are only valid for the semester they are submitted:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/aerospace/>

Flight labs are awarded to eligible students prior to the start of the semester via email. To receive and retain a flight lab, students with an awarded lab must complete **ALL** of the steps outlined in this guide by the deadline specified. Many of these steps can and should be completed well before the start of the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible.

The deadlines to submit a flight lab request are:

- Fall Semester - June 30
- Spring Semester - Nov 15
- Summer Semester - April 15

### **Late requests may be considered only after all other requests**

All deadlines listed in this guide and online are firm. For the date of a specific requirement for the current cycle, please see the department's website for the applicable date.

Finishing a flight lab within a semester requires diligent adherence to the required training schedule. Students should realize that weather, mechanical issues, or examiner availability often cause delays which may result in the need to stay after a semester ends to complete a flight lab course. These types of delays are normal and are not viewed as justification to extend deadlines.

One of the Department's goals is to instill self-reliance within our student population. Aviation professionals often work without close supervision and are required to rely on printed checklists and instruction to resolve issues. As such, when students contact us for answers that can be found in this guide or other readily available and widely disseminated information sources, they should expect to be directed to these publications. The Department works very hard to keep these sources of information up to date to ensure the guidance available is both clear and comprehensive.

## Safety of Flight

Students in the Aerospace Department are required to fly in the University's training aircraft during several courses within each concentration. These courses include AERO 1020 for all Aerospace students, AERO 2710 for UAS Operations students, and all the flight lab courses encompassed within the Professional Pilot concentration for Professional Pilot students.

MTSU operates DiamondStar DA40 aircraft as the primary trainer. For a variety of reasons (including fleet commonality, instructor standardization, maintenance considerations, etc.), the University only operates this make and model aircraft as its primary trainer. While these aircraft are very capable, every aircraft has physical limits that may prohibit a student's ability to safely participate in a given course.

The aircraft is approximately 37" from seat to canopy. The maximum length of the seat belt is 35" from seat edge to seat edge. The center-stick flight control affords 7.5" from stick to aircraft sidewall when fully deflected. The combined weight of aircraft, student, instructor, and fuel is also a limitation. Entry into the aircraft requires that students step up onto the aircraft's wing and then lower themselves into the cockpit. Students would need to be able to egress from the aircraft in the reverse order under both normal and emergency situations. All of these requirements and limitations must be taken into account for safe participation in the flight portion of a course. Students may find it useful to arrange to sit in the aircraft prior to classes to determine if a safety issue exists.

If a flight lesson required by the courses indicated above cannot be accomplished safely, non-Professional Pilot concentration students will be required to complete an alternative assignment in lieu of the flight portion of their respective course. The faculty member assigned to the course will provide more information. Professional Pilot students must be able to train using the University's training aircraft during each curriculum-required flight lab course.

Students that require a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are encouraged to contact the Disability & Access Center and then discuss any approved accommodation related to aircraft operation with the flight school prior to classes.

## Student Privacy and Requests for Information

Students have certain rights in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) regarding the privacy of their education records. You will find full information regarding MTSU's sharing of student information under Policy 500: Access to Education Records. MTSU encourages parents to communicate directly with their student regarding their educational records and promotes the use of Partners in Education (PIE) Partner(s) to students. Details of the PIE program may be seen at <https://www.mtsu.edu/one-stop/privacy.php>.

To request information, PIE Partners must contact the MT One Stop. All PIE information requests are fulfilled through the MT One Stop. When a PIE partner contacts the MT One Stop and places a request for information about issues such as grades, attendance, or financial aid, the MT One Stop will contact the necessary parties to fulfill the request. The information requested is emailed by the MT One Stop to a Partner and the student is always copied.

In keeping with federal regulations and University policies, Aerospace Department faculty and staff are unable to respond directly to requests from parents; this includes information regarding student performance, funding, and flight lab status. Any such requests received (via call or email) from parents will be redirected to the MT One Stop. Parents are encouraged to contact the One Stop directly as outlined above for PIE requests. In addition to compliance with University policy, the Aerospace Department believes it is important for each student's professional development that the student learns to effectively work through any issues they encounter within the Department. Our faculty and staff are happy to assist students with any questions and/or concerns they bring forward.

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## **Flight Lab Award Checklist**

If these requirements are not met,  
you will not receive or retain a flight lab for the semester

- **1. Apply for Financial Aid** – Students should apply for financial aid as soon as possible. Do not wait until you are awarded a lab to begin your financial aid applications.
  - Full details on the financial aid process can be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/>
  - Full details on how to pay for your flight lab can be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/flight-lab.php>
  
- **2. Apply for TSA approval (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY)** – All international students must receive permission from the TSA to train in the Private, Instrument, and Multi Engine labs. This can take several months. It is important that all international students diligently work on this multi-step process to prevent delays in training. All MTSU flight training is categorized as Category 3.
  - To submit a training request to the TSA: <https://fts.tsa.dhs.gov>
  
- **3. Submit your Flight Lab Request Form** – Students must complete a flight lab request for a specific semester. Only the final submission for a given semester will be reviewed. Request forms can be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/aerospace/>
  - The flight lab request form includes a financial aid section to notify financial aid of your **expected** need. An authorization form is needed to allow the business office to move financial aid directly into your flight training account. To grant permission to transfer excess financial aid funds directly into your flight account, you may submit a request by clicking [here](#). Students without a financial aid need denoted on their flight lab request form or those that do not grant permission for aid to be transferred may not be eligible for an extension should a funding delay occur.
  
- **4. Obtain an FAA Medical** - Students must have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Medical Certificate (with at least 3<sup>rd</sup> class privileges) or higher. Students are encouraged to complete the physical well before the start of the semester to identify and resolve any concerns. Concerns may take months to resolve. If not uploaded with the lab request, new students will need to email a copy of their FAA medical to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu). New students that fail to submit their medical with their request or via email by the deadline listed in the award email will lose their lab.
  - Pre-exam questionnaire - <https://medxpress.faa.gov/>
  - Schedule exam with Aviation Medical Examiner (AME)
    - AMEs can be found at: <https://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/>



- **5. Register for all other classes** – Students should register for the upcoming semester during the normal registration window. Students **will not** be able to register for flight labs or ground courses (beyond AERO 2230) until the associated lab is awarded. Students requesting the private lab must be registered for, or have taken, AERO 2230 in order to be eligible for a Private Pilot (AERO 2201) lab award<sup>1</sup>. Advanced labs and associated ground courses require specific permission of the department that is only issued after lab awards are announced. Students will not be able to register for these flight labs or ground courses until flight labs are awarded.
  
- **6. Complete any Prerequisite Certificate/Rating** – Students must complete any prerequisite certificate/rating in order to register for the subsequent flight lab and co-requisite ground course. Priority during the lab award process will be given to returning students with completed prerequisites by the end of the previous semester (Fall and Spring Only). The first awarded flight lab is not eligible for priority.
  - Students that have completed a certificate/rating outside of MTSU and did not attach a copy with their lab request must email a copy of their temporary certificate to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) to receive a permit to register.
  
- **7. Receive Flight Lab Award and Register for the Flight Lab Course & Co-requisite Ground** – Flight lab awards are communicated via e-mail soon after the conclusion of the preceding semester (i.e., mid-Dec. for the spring). Students should register for their flight lab and ground course through Pipeline as soon as the lab is awarded and their registration permits are issued. Registration permits (beyond AERO 2230) are only issued once all requirements are met. This includes:
  - When the lab is awarded
  - When all documentation is received
  - When the previous/prerequisite certificate/rating is complete.
  - Registration permits are only issued during **normal business hours**.

Failing to complete the certificate/rating, failing to supply required documents, failing to register for the flight lab, or failing to register for the co-requisite ground by the deadline indicated in the award e-mail (approximately one week before class begins) will result in loss of the lab.

**The lab registration deadline is also the deadline to complete all retention requirements for a wait list lab.**

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<sup>1</sup> For students enrolling in initial flight training (AERO 2201), an application for a student pilot certificate will be completed during the first meeting. The student pilot certificate must be received prior to solo flight.

- **8. Fund Flight Account** – Flight accounts must be fully-funded by the funding deadline prior to the start of classes<sup>2</sup>. The exact payment due date will be listed in the lab award email (typically by 4:30 pm the Friday before classes start). This allows for financial aid to disburse (typically the Thursday before classes start). Financial aid should be authorized to be transferred in order to prevent losing a lab due to the delay a refund will cause. Students authorize the transfer through the Authorization to Transfer form found [here](#). Parents must submit a specialized form (available at the business office) to authorize financial aid be transferred for loans in which they selected “refund to parent.”
  - Financial aid delays do not negate the attendance policy for the course.
  - If a delay in financial aid occurs due to causes beyond the student’s control, students may be allowed to begin training with less than the full amount. Delays are very rare and require documentation and justification to begin with less than the full amount. A refund delaying funding is not an adequate justification for an extension. For information regarding extensions, please review the “Paying for your flight lab” section of this guide.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF FLIGHT LAB:**

- **9. Documentation** - Students must present a valid, unexpired U.S. Passport **or** an original state-issued birth certificate **and** a valid government-issued picture I.D. (such as a valid state driver’s license). Non-U.S. citizens must present appropriate identification. All students must have a valid first-class or second-class medical (See step 4 above).

**Process questions may be answered by emailing**  
[FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu)

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<sup>2</sup> Flight account deposit requirements do NOT apply to 100% eligible VA students. COEs are required to verify eligibility. Please reference the VA section of this guide for additional details.

## Step 1: Apply for Financial Aid

In order to receive financial aid for a given academic year, the student must first submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applications are accepted beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Students should submit this application as soon as possible. Full details on the financial aid process can be found at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/>.

Aerospace students or parents are strongly encouraged to email financial aid questions to [MTOneStop@mtsu.edu](mailto:MTOneStop@mtsu.edu). The call center is very limited in the information they can give out over the phone, typically just basic questions about the financial aid and funding for the flight labs. If you decide to call the MTSU call center (615-898-2111), select Option 2. When the agent answers, inform them that you are calling regarding an aerospace student and request to speak with an “Enrollment Coordinator.”

**Aerospace students or parents are strongly encouraged to email financial aid questions to [MTOneStop@mtsu.edu](mailto:MTOneStop@mtsu.edu).**

**This will result in the quickest response.**

Financial aid is only available for coursework required by your Program of Study. Simply taking 12 academic credits may not meet the requirements to be full-time if one or more of these classes are not required for your degree. Students should contact the MT One Stop with any questions regarding their financial aid status. Elective credit beyond degree requirements will not be eligible for aid.

Need-based financial aid is available based on the cost of attendance (COA) for the student. Tuition, fees, books, and food are all included in these costs. Flight fees are additional costs that can also be included in the cost of attendance (COA). To include flight fees requires notification of the student’s intent to take a flight lab in a given semester. This is done through the Flight Lab Request form. By indicating that the student intends to take a specific course in a given semester (and that financial aid will be needed on that flight lab request), the financial aid office will increase the students cost of attendance (COA) so that the student is eligible for additional financial aid. This increased cost of attendance is done even though the student is not registered for the lab and without the charges showing on the student’s bill. Funds will not be disbursed to the student unless the student is registered for the lab when financial aid is disbursed for the semester. If the student does not register for the lab, the student will need to work with One Stop to ensure that their COA is reduced and that the reduced loan amount is disbursed.

Students should apply for loans, etc. as soon as possible.

**Do not wait until you are awarded a lab to apply for financial aid.**

Full details on how to pay for your flight lab can be found at:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/flight-lab.php>.

**It is important to understand that the amount of money the student and / or parents are eligible to receive may not cover the costs of flight lab fees in addition to the cost of general education fees.**

Federal Direct Loans are provided to students without a cosigner. To receive a Federal Direct Loan, the student must be enrolled at least ½ time (six credits or more). Additional loans include parent loans and alternative education loans - both of which need a co-signer. There are various lenders for these type loans and information may be obtained through the MTSU MT OneStop in the Student Services and Admissions Center.

**Apply for student loans, either individual or co-signed, as far in advance as possible.**

All approved student loans will initially be disbursed to the student's general fund. Any money used for flight labs (including AERO 3240/Pro IV and AERO 4250/Pro V) must be transferred to the student's "flight account" at the student's request. This process is authorized through the [Authorization to Transfer](#) form. Students are strongly encouraged to authorize the transfer of funds. Any co-signed loan will need the approval of the parent or co-signer to transfer into the flight account. Please contact the Business Office for the appropriate form.

Upon approval from the student and / or co-signer, approved loans will disburse to the flight account. This usually occurs on the Thursday before the start of the semester. Extensions will not be granted if a refund is issued.

There is no action required by the student to create a flight account. Flight accounts are created for any new student when they submit their first lab request. If funds are sent prior to the flight account's creation, the business office will have the department create an account for the student without any action needed from the student.

**Please apply for your loan(s) as early as possible.** If a student waits until the last minute to apply for loans, he / she will be with hundreds of other applicants and the process is slowed drastically. This means that the student will most likely not receive funds prior to the start of classes. If funds are not in the flight lab account by the deadline prior to the first day of classes (usually the Friday before the start of classes), the student will be dropped from the flight lab unless an extension has been received prior to the funding deadline.

**SUMMER LAB STUDENTS:** Students may apply for parental loans or private alternative education loans to cover summer coursework. Federal Direct Loans may be available to students for summer semester courses/labs if the student has loan eligibility left. For example, if a student only took out \$1000 during the year of their \$5500 annual limit, they could have \$4500 left for summer loans if they take at least 6 eligible hours. If a student moves from sophomore to junior level after spring, this may also open up an additional \$1,000 in Federal Direct Loans.

**Students should check with MT One Stop to determine available financial aid.**

### **Unused Title IV (Federal) Financial Aid**

Federal law requires that any unused Title IV (federal) financial aid be returned to the student by the end of the semester (at the latest). As a result, students that do not finish their flight lab by the last day of the semester will receive a refund for any unused federal financial aid. Students are encouraged to immediately return these funds to their flight account in order to continue training. A flight hold will be placed on any account when a mandatory refund is issued until the lab is again fully funded.

### **Step 2: Apply for TSA Approval (International Students Only)**

**NON-U.S. CITIZENS MUST HAVE TSA APPROVAL TO BEGIN FLIGHT TRAINING IN THE PRIVATE, INSTRUMENT AND MULTI ENGINE LABS.** <sup>3</sup> If you are not a U.S. citizen, the process to receive approval from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) can take up to several months. It is recommended that students apply for FTSP approval at least six weeks prior to the start of the requested lab semester. Candidates must complete all steps outlined on the TSA's website: <https://fts.tsa.dhs.gov>. <sup>4</sup>

All MTSU flight training is categorized as **Category 3**.

- The aircraft type will be “DA40” for AERO 2201 (Private) and AERO 3203 (Instrument).
- The aircraft type will be “PA44” for AERO 3261 (multi-engine).
- “Course ID” is not required.
- For “Class Name” select: Initial License, Instrument Rating, or Multi-engine rating.

**After application, approval from the TSA will be received by the MTSU flight training FTSP representative (Chief or Assistant Chief Instructor).** Please note that the application for approval does not allow a non-U.S. student to begin flight training. Only a “Permission to Initiate Training” notification to the flight school will allow training to start.

**Non-U.S. citizens who have not received their “Permission to Initiate Training” by seven days prior to the first day of class for the semester will not be able to retain their lab for the semester.** Non-U.S. citizens are encouraged to contact [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) by the flight lab application deadline for each semester to ensure proper approvals are received. <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Non-U.S. citizens do **NOT** need to wait until a previous certificate is complete to apply for the next required FTSP approval.

<sup>4</sup> The web address and program name have recently changed.

<sup>5</sup> Passport and TSA approval expiration dates must remain valid throughout the entirety of the flight lab.

### **Step 3: Submit your Flight Lab Request Form**

Students must submit a flight lab request form for each semester they wish to take (register for) a flight lab. Only the final submission for a given semester will be considered. Please follow the form direction carefully. Files must be submitted in the proper format (JPG or PDF only) to ensure they can be opened. Students are strongly encouraged to save a copy of their form for future reference.

Forms can be found online at: <http://www.mtsu.edu/aerospace/>

The flight lab request form includes a financial aid section to notify financial aid of your expected need. A separate form will be needed to allow the business office to move financial aid directly into your flight account. This process is authorized through the [\*\*Authorization to Transfer\*\*](#). Students without a financial aid need denoted on their flight lab request form or those that do not grant permission for aid to be transferred may not be eligible for an extension should a funding delay occur.

### **Step 4: Obtain an FAA Medical**

FAA medicals are performed at one of three levels of rigor – referred to as “classes.” A 1<sup>st</sup> class medical is the most rigorous. Airline pilots are required to maintain a 1<sup>st</sup> class medical. A 2<sup>nd</sup> class medical is required for commercial operations. A 3<sup>rd</sup> class medical allows for personal use.

Students at MTSU must have an FAA medical originally issued as either a 1<sup>st</sup> class or 2<sup>nd</sup> class medical certificate. Medicals issued as 3<sup>rd</sup> class are not acceptable. The certificate itself may be only valid for exercising lower privileges. For example, a medical issued as 1<sup>st</sup> class that is now only valid for 3<sup>rd</sup> class privileges because it is more than 12 months old would not need to be renewed. In these cases, a new medical is not required even though the student could not use for operations requiring a 1<sup>st</sup> class medical. Our concern is that the student can pass at least a 2<sup>nd</sup> class medical exam and not that the student maintains a 2<sup>nd</sup> class for the entire time they are in flight training at MTSU. In most cases, medicals are valid for 60 months if under 40 years old.

Students are encouraged to complete the physical well before the start of the semester to identify and resolve any issues. Extensive documentation may be required depending on the medical history. **Concerns may take months to resolve.**

FAA medicals are performed by designated medical examiners called Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs). FAA medicals can be performed by an AME at the health center on campus. To locate an AME in your area prior to arrival on campus, please use: <https://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/>.

The medical exam has two parts. The first part is an online pre-exam questionnaire. This questionnaire can be found at <https://medxpress.faa.gov/>. The second step is the actual physical with your AME.

New students should upload their medical with their lab request. If the medical is not included with the request, new students must email a copy of their FAA medical to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu). New students that fail to submit their medical with their request or via email by the deadline listed in the award email will lose their lab. Medicals will not be accepted after the deadline.

## **Step 5: Register for all other classes**

Students should register for the upcoming semester during the normal registration window. Students will not be able to register for flight labs or ground courses (beyond AERO 2230) until the associated lab is awarded. Students requesting the private lab must be registered for, or have taken, AERO 2230 in order to be eligible for a Private Pilot (AERO 2201) lab award. Advanced labs and associated ground courses require specific permission of the department that is only issued after lab awards are announced. Students will not be able to register for these flight labs or ground courses until flight labs are awarded.

### **Pro IV and Pro V**

AERO 3240 and AERO 4250, commonly referred to as Pro IV and Pro V, require permission of the department, but do not require a flight lab request form. Students are added to the wait list for these courses by emailing [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) with their m-number and CRN. Registration permits are issued once the student supplies the correct information and meets the requirements for the course. If the student subsequently drops a requirement, they will be required to drop any co-requisite.

AERO 3240 (Pro IV) is not automatically awarded with AERO 3261 (multi-engine) as it is not a required co-requisite of AERO 3261. AERO 3261 is, however, a pre-requisite or co-requisite of AERO 3240. Students are not eligible for AERO 3240 unless they have taken, or are registered for, AERO 3261.

Both Pro IV and Pro V have course fees associated with them. Like other labs, these fees must be paid to the flight lab account prior to the start of the semester. If a student is not taking another flight lab in the same semester, but needs financial aid for Pro IV or Pro V, the student will need to submit a flight lab request form without a primary lab listed. If requesting another lab for the same semester, students should indicate on their lab request form their intentions to take these courses only if financial aid is needed. Please see page 12 for more details on transferring funding to these courses.

## **Step 6: Complete any Prerequisite Certificate/Rating**

Students must complete any prerequisite certificate/rating in order to register for the subsequent flight lab and co-requisite ground course. Priority during the lab award process will be given to returning students with completed prerequisites by the end of the previous semester (Fall and Spring Only). The first awarded flight lab is not eligible for priority.

Students that have completed a certificate/rating outside of MTSU and did not attach a copy with their lab request must email a copy of their temporary certificate to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) to receive a permit to register.



## Step 7: Receive Flight Lab Award and Register for the Flight Lab Course & Co-requisite Ground

### Process for Determining Lab Awards

The goal of the department is to accommodate every student who wishes to enroll in a flight lab each semester. Instructional staff and aircraft capacity may limit the total number of lab awards available. To accommodate as many qualified students as possible, it is imperative that all students in flight labs for the semester are ready to begin training on the first day of class.

Students not completing each of the steps listed in this guide will be removed from their flight lab so that an eligible student on the wait list is able to utilize that lab space instead.

### Detailed Lab Award Process for Spring Semesters

1. Student load capacity is determined for each flight lab course. Constraints such as flight instructor qualifications to teach in a course, requested student load of each instructor, and the need to keep a balance between the numbers of students in each flight course to prevent equipment bottlenecks are all considered in this determination.

2. Student eligibility for the lab they requested is verified. Eligibility is determined by the following factors:

- Student submitted a complete and accurate flight lab request by the deadline (incomplete and late lab requests may be considered once all other requests are awarded)
- Student's collegiate GPA is at or above the minimum GPA required
  - An established GPA is required to be eligible for a flight lab. Summer and fall flight labs are awarded before grades for the previous semester are issued. This prevents the use of this coursework to establish a GPA for the subsequent semester
- Students requesting AERO 2201 must be registered for, or have taken, AERO 2230 to be eligible for AERO 2201
- Returning students that complete their prior/prerequisite certificate/rating lab by the published deadline (usually the last day of the preceding semester) will be given "priority"

3. Eligible students are ranked, per lab course, by cumulative GPA (i.e., 4.000 down to 2.500). Transfer students may use their GPA from their previous institution for eligibility purposes during their first semester at MTSU only. **(Note: Effective with the Fall 2020 catalog, students must have a college cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and students will be required to have 12 hours of college credit post high school graduation to be eligible for a flight lab.)**

4. Flight labs are awarded to the highest-ranked "priority" students first. Once all students with priority have received labs, labs are then awarded to the remaining eligible students until all available labs have been awarded. Eligible students with less competitive GPA's may be placed on a wait list if there are not enough lab slots available. If all eligible students have received labs and additional awards remain, additional labs may be awarded to students with late, inaccurate, or incomplete lab requests. First awarded labs are not eligible for priority.

5. One week after grades for the fall semester post, notification emails will be sent to all students that applied for a lab. The e-mail will indicate the student either: 1) Has been awarded a lab, 2) Is on a wait list for the lab they requested, or 3) Is ineligible for the lab they requested for the upcoming semester. If additional lab slots become available, the first student on the wait list will be awarded the lab via email. **It is vitally important that lab award and wait list e-mails are read in their entirety. They will include important information and lab deadlines.**

6. Students awarded labs must register for their flight lab and associated ground course by the registration deadline in the award email (approximately one week before classes). To register, students must receive a registration permit from the flight school. If the student met all requirements when the lab was awarded, the registration permits were issued. These students should be able to register immediately.

If the student is unable to register, a registration permit will be issued only when all requirements are met. Registration permits are issued during normal business hours. It is the student's responsibility to resolve any issues and receive a registration permit in time to register by the deadline (see retention requirements below). Failing to receive a registration permit by the close-of-business prior to the registration deadline will result in loss of the lab unless the applicable prior/prerequisite certificate/rating was completed after the close of business and before the registration deadline. Students completing their certificate/rating over the weekend of the deadline will receive a 24-hour extension to register. No extensions will be given for failing to submit required documents before the close-of-business prior to the registration deadline.

**All retention requirements must be met by the registration  
deadline (approximately one week before class)**

7. Retention requirements for every student will be reviewed immediately after the registration deadline. Students that do not meet retention requirements by the registration deadline will be moved to the bottom of the wait list once requirements are met.

Retention requirements include:

- All awarded students must be registered for their lab and any associated ground course
- All check rides must be complete for any preceding lab
  - Email a copy of your temporary certificate to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) to ensure timely documentation, if applicable
  - If check ride is not complete at this point, the student will lose their flight lab for the next semester
- New students must have submitted their medical certificate with their lab request or emailed a copy to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu), if applicable
- VA students must have submitted their COE or initiated reimbursement for prior lab
- Non-US citizens must have TSA "Permission to Initiate Training"

8. If additional lab slots become available after the registration deadline, students from the waitlist that meet all retention requirements may be considered. These students will have 24 hours to register.

Students that meet eligibility requirements and remain on the wait list at the start of the semester are encouraged to attend one of the meetings with the Chief Instructor to avoid receiving absences should a lab be awarded during the first week of the semester.

**It is important for students to monitor email diligently.  
If the student does not register during the 24-hour timeframe,  
the next eligible student on the wait list will be contacted and the prior  
student will be moved to the bottom of the list.**

### **Fall and Summer Semesters**

The lab award process for the fall and summer semesters are the same as the spring except all awards are tentative. Due to the short time period between the end of one semester and the start of the next semester (usually one week), the lab awards are determined and tentative award emails are sent out prior to grades posting. These tentative awards are dependent on the student's GPA remaining competitive once grades post. If the student's GPA drops relative to other students during the semester, they might not remain competitive with other applicants, and therefore lose their lab slot.

### **Wait List**

The wait list for each course is determined by GPA within each of the following categories:

1. Priority students not awarded a lab due to a lab slot not being available
2. Eligible students not awarded a lab
3. Students that submitted a late or incomplete lab request
4. Students not registered by the registration deadline

Wait list students may not be awarded a lab until after the "one week prior to the semester deadline" to allow incomplete students to complete their prerequisite lab course. In the event that a lab is awarded after the "one week prior to the semester deadline," these students will need to register within 24 hours of the email notification being sent and fund their lab by the regular funding deadline.

Full-semester labs include AERO 2201 (Private), AERO 3203 (Instrument), AERO 3204 (Commercial), and AERO 4201 (CFI). No additional labs for these courses will be awarded after the first week of classes. Students on the wait list for one of these labs after the first week of classes will need to apply for the lab in a future semester.

Students on the wait list for AERO 3261 (Multi-engine), AERO 3202 (Cross-country), AERO 3205 (Tailwheel), AERO 4202 (CFII), or AERO 4203 (MEI) may receive a lab award after the first week of the semester. These labs have fewer flight time requirements which allows them to be completed in less time than the full-semester labs.

## **Late Additions (After the Funding Deadline)**

Limited flight lab spots may become available after the funding deadline.

In order to be eligible for a full-semester flight lab after the funding deadline (i.e. during the first week of classes), students must be able to immediately register and immediately fund their lab.

- If a student listed that they would need financial aid, the department will contact the Financial Aid office before awarding the lab to confirm that aid is available. Students cannot apply for financial aid after the lab is awarded.
- If a student is paying solely out-of-pocket, the department will require that funds be deposited before issuing the applicable permits to register.

If a student is 100% VA or SACM funded, the department will issue a permit to register without additional funding being needed. VA students that are less than 100% eligible will need to fund their portion of the expected costs in order to receive a permit to register. Students using GI Bill® should consult with the Daniels Center (MTSU's Veteran Center) to ensure that any lab started after the first day of classes will be certified properly.

**Late additions will receive absences if they did not attend the Semester Launch with the Chief Instructor**

Students awarded one of the following labs after the start of the semester may need to complete an add form in order to register. This form will be sent along with instructions via email. Courses eligible for addition after the first week of the semester include AERO 3261 (Multi-engine), AERO 3202 (Cross-country), AERO 3205 (Tailwheel), AERO 4202 (CFII), and AERO 4203 (MEI). Only these courses are eligible for awards after the first week of classes.

Students using GI Bill® are strongly discouraged from registering for flight labs after the first week of classes. Certifications after the first week must be prorated, which means the VA will only pay a portion of the tuition and fees and the student will be required to pay the balance. GI Bill® students MUST consult with the Daniels Center (MTSU's veteran center) prior to registering late for one of these labs to ensure proper certification. Ultimately, the VA will determine the amount of benefits that will be paid; any unpaid amount will remain the responsibility of the student.

Graduating students should not rely on a late addition short course to meet graduation requirements. When you plan to graduate during the given semester, you should be registered for all remaining classes prior to the start of the term. Pending graduation status is not factored into the lab award process. If you are unable to register for a flight lab before the start of your final semester, you should contact your academic advisor immediately to determine your alternatives.

## **Registration**

Students must register for their flight labs and associated ground courses in Pipeline once their lab is awarded and all prerequisites are met. University requirements for registration and drop requirements can be found in the University's Registration Guide:

<https://www.mtsu.edu/registration/registration-guide.php>

You will not be able to register for this lab in Pipeline until you meet all requirements for the lab course. If you receive a "Permission of Department" error, action is required on your part:

- If you are a new student, email a copy of your medical to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu).
- If you have recently completed your previous/prerequisite certificate/rating, email a copy of your temporary to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu).
- If you are an international student, you must have received "Permission to Initiate" from the Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) in order to receive a permit to register for the Private, Instrument, or Multi-engine lab.
- If you are a VA-funded student, email a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu).
- If you are a returning VA-funded student and have not initiated a reimbursement for a prior lab (including paying your out-of-pocket expenses), initiate reimbursement for your prior lab as outlined in the VA-funded student section of this guide and pay your out-of-pocket expenses to remove any holds that may be in place.

If you are unable to register, you need to resolve all issues and then email [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) to have a registration permit issued (if not part of the resolution). Permits to register are only awarded during normal business hours. If the registration deadline is the same weekend your check ride is completed, you will be given 24 hours to register for their lab beginning on the next business day.

Registration must be completed by the deadline (approximately one week before classes) or it will be assumed that you are no longer interested in taking the lab. As such, your lab will be rescinded and the lab slot will be awarded to another student on the wait list, if applicable.

If your lab is rescinded or you are required to drop (i.e., lack of medical), you must log into Pipeline and drop the applicable course(s). Failure to drop in a timely manner may reduce the amount of tuition refunded. See the University's registration guide for more information on registration and drop deadlines.

## Step 8: Fund Flight Account

Flight lab charges will not show in Pipeline. Students must fund their flight lab account in addition to the tuition and fees charges shown in Pipeline. There is no action required by the student to create a flight account. Flight accounts are created for any new student when flight labs are awarded. A link to your flight training account will be sent by the department if you are awarded a flight lab. You must use this link when creating your account.

Most flight accounts are funded through financial aid. Financial aid should be authorized to be transferred in order to prevent losing a lab due to the delay a refund will cause. Students authorize the transfer through the [Authorization to Transfer](#) form. Parents must submit a specialized form (available at the business office) to authorize financial aid be transferred for loans in which they selected “refund to parent.” Students may also fund their lab via credit card using the link below to our online portal.

The Business Office accepts cash, personal checks, money orders, cashier's checks, Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express (both debit and credit) at the cashier windows in the Student Services and Admissions Center (SSAC) located on the 2nd floor. Payments by check, money order or cashier's check can be sent by mail, should be payable to MTSU, and include the student's M# and “flight account.” If this information cannot be included with the check (i.e., 529 plan), the student should email [bursarmt@mtsu.edu](mailto:bursarmt@mtsu.edu) to let them know that a check is being sent and that it is for a flight lab. Contact the Bursar's Office ([bursarmt@mtsu.edu](mailto:bursarmt@mtsu.edu)) for questions regarding payment methods.

Flight accounts must be fully funded by the funding deadline prior to the first day of class. Several webpages are available to provide information on the different sources of aid that may help in paying for your flight lab and completing the financial aid process.

<https://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/index.php>

- For a list of flight labs and fees, please click [here](#).
- To make a deposit directly to your flight lab account (Flight Schedule Pro), click [here](#).
- To check your flight account balance, click [here](#):

*To log into your Flight Schedule Pro account for the first time, you will need to use the link provided to you by the department. You will not be able to create an account associated with MTSU from directly from the website. Please email [flightlab@mtsu.edu](mailto:flightlab@mtsu.edu) if you were awarded a lab and have not received a link.*

***For accurate billing purposes, please do not edit the First or Last Name Field on your Flight Schedule Pro account.***

**Flight accounts must be fully funded by the funding deadline prior to the start of classes.** The exact payment due date will be listed in the lab award email (typically by 4:30 pm the Friday before classes start). This allows for financial aid to disburse (typically the Thursday before classes start). Financial aid should be authorized to be transferred in order to prevent losing a lab due to the delay a refund will cause. Students authorize the transfer through the [Authorization to Transfer](#) form. Parents must submit a specialized form (available at the business office) to authorize financial aid be transferred for loans in which they selected “refund to parent.”

Flight account deposit requirements do NOT apply to 100% eligible VA students. Current COEs are required to verify eligibility. Please reference the VA section of this guide for additional details.

If a delay in financial aid occurs due to causes beyond the student’s control, students may be allowed to begin training with less than the full amount. Delays are very rare and require documentation and justification to begin with less than the full amount. A refund delaying funding is not an adequate justification for an extension.

### **Financial aid delays do not negate the attendance policy for the course**

If a delay in financial aid occurs that is out of the student’s control, students may be authorized to begin training with less than the full amount. To receive an extension, the student must submit evidence of the pending payment from the lending institution (including amount and disbursement date) and justification for the delay to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) by the funding deadline prior to the start of classes and receive an email authorization. Only if an extension is granted may the student begin without full funding. These students are required to have a minimum of \$500 in their flight account by the first day of class, without exception, to cover initial charges. Students must be able maintain a positive balance until the lab is fully funded. The full amount must be deposited by the end of the first week of the lab. If the student does not have the full amount by the end of the first week of the lab, the student will lose their lab slot.

### **Extra Costs Associated With Flight Labs**

When a student enrolls in any university class, there are extra costs associated with the class for books and supplies. Similarly, each flight lab course will require materials necessary to complete training in addition to flight and ground school costs (headset, aviation charts, books, etc.). Please reference the Required Flight Lab Materials for each flight lab course on pages 34-35. Each student will be required to have the listed items for each flight lab by the end of the first week of class. The materials may be purchased anywhere the student wishes. Some of the materials are available through the MTSU bookstore, and online retailers. These materials are separate purchases from the flight lab fees and may not be purchased through the student’s flight account.

In addition, students will pay \$400-800 for examiner fees for each FAA check-ride and \$150 per attempt for each required FAA written test. MTSU does not set these fees. These fees are for independent examiners and are not payable through the student’s flight account. Examiner fees must be paid out of pocket by the student at the time of the event. Please plan accordingly to have money available to pay for these required fees.



## Flight Lab Costs

While curriculum hours are established as indicated below, a student's training completion is based upon the individual student's progress. Some students learn quickly, while others take more time to understand the material. This is especially true in the challenging field of aviation. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has set minimum standards for each FAA check ride. Since our main concern at MTSU is to train with safety in mind, we train each student to these standards, which may take more than the required flight hours to meet.

To maintain consistent progress, one of the requirements for students to be admitted to and remain in each flight lab course is to maintain enough money in their flight account to finish the lab and obtain the rating for which that flight lab prepares them. Since student progress may take more time than the absolute minimum requirements, students may need to deposit more money in their flight account than the minimum requirement to maintain their flight lab status. Students are required to maintain a positive balance at all times. If a student falls short of the amount necessary to complete the lab, a flight hold will be issued until the balance is above the minimum requirement.

The minimum amounts that must be deposited into a student's flight account for each of the flight labs are outlined below. The flat-fee courses are charged directly to the student's tuition bill and in most cases do not require any action to be deposited into the student's flight account. All other courses must be funded through a financial aid transfer authorization to the business office or through payment made through the online portal.

### 2022-2023 Flight Fees – Effective 8/22/2022

<u>DEGREE REQUIRED</u>		<u>ELECTIVES (May meet degree requirements)</u>	
AERO 2201 – “Private”	\$16,183.00	AERO 3202 – “Cross-Country”	\$ 7,522.50
AERO 3203 – “Instrument”	\$15,266.50	AERO 3205 – “Tailwheel”	\$ 1,872.50
AERO 3204 – “Commercial”	\$19,793.00	AERO 3206 – “Adv. Tailwheel”	\$ 2,450.00
AERO 3240 – “Pro IV”	\$ 737.50	AERO 4201 – “CFI”	\$ 6,108.00
AERO 3261 – “Multiengine”	\$ 5,865.00	AERO 4202 – “CFII”	\$ 2,710.00
AERO 4250 – “Pro V”	\$ 2,225.00	AERO 4203 – “MEI”	\$ 6,800.00

Please refer to pages 27-29 of this guide for more specific lab cost breakdown information

### **The above costs are what MTSU will use to determine financial aid amounts for flight lab courses.**

While most students will be able to complete a listed course with the required amount listed, completion is dependent on the individual progression of each student. Since student progress may take more time than the absolute minimum requirements, students may need to deposit more money in their flight account than the minimum requirement to maintain their flight lab status. Any excess money in the flight account at the completion of training may be applied towards the student's next flight lab or returned to the student at the end of the semester. These numbers are subject to change due to many factors including fluctuating fuel costs.

## **2022-2023 Detailed Flight Lab Costs**

Prices are based on the flight and ground hours listed in the FAA-approved Training Course Outline (TCO) for each flight course. MTSU monitors student progress closely, and strives to provide safe, cost-effective training to all our flight lab students. It is possible that a student will require more training to meet the standards necessary to pass the FAA check ride, and therefore spend more than the amounts shown. The syllabus total is the total cost if the syllabus is flown as required. The amount required in the flight account is the amount of money that needs to be in the student's flight account prior to the start of training and should be referenced if requesting financial aid.

**Note:** The required hours of flight and ground instruction for each flight course, along with the course cost based on those hours, is indicated below. Based on historical data, some students require more than the required hours of training to be proficient and able to pass their FAA check ride for a particular course. Students are required to deposit the minimum amount indicated on the last (italicized) line of each certificate cost summary into their flight account prior to beginning training for that course. These rates are effective 8/23/2022.

**PLEASE BE AWARE:** Prices are subject to change due to various factors to include fluctuating fuel costs. Prices do not include costs for the FAA check ride examiner or flight fees or extra required materials (headset, charts etc.). These costs are paid directly to individuals or companies that are independent of MTSU.

## **2022-2023 Required Flight Lab Fees (Required for all Pro-Pilot Students)**

### **Professional Pilot Flight Lab I (AERO 2201) - FITS Private Pilot - Part 141**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft)	43.0 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$10,965.00
Solo	7.5 hours	x	\$195.00	=	\$ 1,462.50
Ground Instruction	45.5 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 2,730.00
Fuel Charge	50.5 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 505.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$15,662.50
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b><i>(\$16,183.00)</i></b>

### **Professional Pilot Flight Lab II (AERO 3203) - FITS Instrument Pilot - Part 141**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft)	43.6 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$11,118.00
Dual Instruction (ATD)	4.0 hours	x	\$ 95.00	=	\$ 380.00
Ground Instruction	45.5 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 2,730.00
Fuel Charge	43.6 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 436.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$14,664.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b><i>(\$15,266.50)</i></b>

### **Professional Pilot Flight Lab III (AERO 3204) - FITS Commercial Pilot - Part 141**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, DA40)	53.0 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$ 13,515.00
Solo (DA40)	12.0 hours	x	\$195.00	=	\$ 2,340.00
Ground Instruction	46.5 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 2,790.00
Fuel Charge	65.0 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 650.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$ 19,295.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b><i>(\$19,793.00)</i></b>

### **Professional Pilot IV (AERO 3240) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (CRJ Simulator)	7.0 hours	x	\$200.00	=	\$1,400.00 (2 students)
Ground Instruction	1.0 hours	x	\$ 75.00	=	<u>\$ 75.00 (2 students)</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$737.50 per student
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b><i>(\$737.50)</i></b>

### **Professional Pilot Flight Lab IV (AERO 3261) - Multi-Engine - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, PA44)	12.0 hours	x	\$345.00	=	\$4,140.00
Ground Instruction	13.5 hours	x	\$ 65.00	=	\$ 877.50
Fuel Charge	12.0 hours	x	\$ 20.00	=	<u>\$ 240.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$5,257.50
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b><i>(\$5,865.00)</i></b>

**Professional Pilot V (AERO 4250) Part 61**

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Dual Instruction (CRJ Simulator)	20.0 hours	x	\$200.00	= \$4,000.00 (2 students)
Ground Instruction	6.0 hours	x	\$ 75.00	= \$ 450.00 (2 students)
				Syllabus Total: = \$ 2,225.00 per student

\* Amount required in flight account: **(\$2,225.00)**

**2021-2022 Flight Experience Fees (Not required for Pro-Pilot Students)**

**Aerospace Maintenance Shop Practices (AERO 1380) - Part 61 – Flat Fee**

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Ground Session (1.5 hour)	=	\$90.00
Flight Session (1.5 hours)	=	<u>\$382.50</u>
Syllabus Total:	=	\$472.50

\* Flat-fee charged with tuition that is automatically transferred to flight account: **(\$472.50)**

**Instrument Flight Fundamentals for Non-Pilots (AERO 3510) - Part 61 – Flat Fee**

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Ground Session (1.5 hour)	=	\$90.00
Flight Session (1.5 hours)	=	<u>\$382.50</u>
Syllabus Total:	=	\$472.50

\* Flat-fee charged with tuition that is automatically transferred to flight account: **(\$472.50)**

**Aircraft Performance (AERO 4440) (Technology Students Only) - Part 61 – Flat Fee**

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Ground Session (1.5 hour)	=	\$90.00
Flight Session (1.5 hours)	=	<u>\$382.50</u>
Syllabus Total:	=	\$472.50

\* Flat-fee charged with tuition that is automatically transferred to flight account: **(\$472.50)**

## 2022-2023 Elective Flight Lab Fees

### **Cross-Country Flight Lab (AERO 3202) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, DA-40)	25.0 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$ 6,375.00
Ground Instruction	14.0 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 840.00
Fuel Charge	25.0 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$ 7,465.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b>(\$ 7,522.50)</b>

### **Conventional Landing Gear Airplane Laboratory (AERO 3205) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, PA18)	8.5 hours	x	\$175.00	=	\$1,487.50
Ground Instruction	5.0 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 300.00
Fuel Charge	8.5 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 85.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$1,872.50
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b>(\$1,872.50)</b>

### **Advanced Conventional Landing Gear Flight Laboratory (AERO 3206) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, PA18)	10.0 hours	x	\$175.00	=	\$1,750.00
Ground Instruction	10.0 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 600.00
Fuel Charge	10.0 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$2,450.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b>(\$2,450.00)</b>

### **Flight Instructor – Airplane Lab (AERO 4201) – CFI (ASE) - Part 141**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, DA20)	1.2 hours	x	\$195.00	=	\$ 234.00
(Aircraft, DA40)	12.8 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$3,264.00
Ground Instruction (lessons 1, 11-12)	5.5 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 330.00
Ground Instruction (lessons 5-10, Group Ground)	17.0 hours	x	\$ 30.00	=	\$ 510.00
Ground Instruction, Pre-Post Flight	9.0 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 540.00
Fuel Charge	14.0 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 140.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$5,018.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b>(\$6,108.00)</b>

### **Flight Instructor - Instrument Lab (AERO 4202) – CFI (IA) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, DA40)	6.0 hours	x	\$255.00	=	\$1,530.00
Ground Instruction	10.0 hours	x	\$ 60.00	=	\$ 600.00
Fuel Charge	6.0 hours	x	\$ 10.00	=	<u>\$ 60.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$2,190.00
<i>* Amount required in flight account:</i>					<b>(\$2,710.00)</b>

### **Flight Instructor - Multi Engine (AERO 4203) – CFI (AME) - Part 61**

Dual Instruction (Aircraft, PA44)	5.0 hours	x	\$345.00	=	\$1,725.00
Ground Instruction	9.5 hours	x	\$ 65.00	=	\$ 617.50

PIC Build Time (Aircraft, PA44)	10.0 hours	x	\$345.00	=	\$3,450.00
Fuel Charge	15.0 hours	x	\$ 20.00	=	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
			Syllabus Total:	=	\$6,092.50
* Amount required in flight account:					<b>(\$6,800.00)</b>

### **VA-Funded Students**

If you are using **Chapter 1606** benefits and not entitled to have any portion of your flight fees paid by the VA, you are not considered a VA-funded student by the flight school.

If you will be using the **Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33)** to pay for your flight training expenses, you will need to submit a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE), issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) by the registration deadline prior to the first day of classes in order to waive non-VA student prepayment requirements. COEs may be obtained online or through the VA office and should be emailed to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu) when requesting a flight lab. Veterans with 100% eligibility are not required to make a funding payment until the flight lab is complete unless all benefits are used. Veterans eligible for partial funding must pay their percentage of the lab fee prior to the start of the semester.

The COE confirms that the student is eligible for VA benefits and thus waives the prepayment requirement for non-VA students as outlined above. Until the COE is received, the student will be classified as a non-VA student. **Failure to provide your COE by the start of the semester may result in loss of lab due to lack of funding unless full payment is made prior to the payment deadline as would be expected from a non-VA student.**

**The VA will only pay for required hours as outlined in each syllabus.** The **VA will not pay** for additional hours above the required lessons listed in the syllabus, optional lessons in a syllabus, review flights after the end-of-course, check-rides, nor will they pay for elective courses not required by a degree. It will be the student's responsibility to pay, out-of-pocket, for any hours obtained that exceed those in the syllabus or are not reimbursed. As each student progresses at a different pace; there is no guarantee that a student will finish a given lab within the prescribed hours of the syllabus.

**NOTE:** There are specific costs associated with flight labs that **VA funds do not cover** including:

- Required flight lab materials: (please reference lists provided on pages 32-33.)
- FAA required written tests: (approximately \$150 each attempt, paid to the testing center).
- FAA required practical test examiner fee: (\$400 - \$800, depending on which test, paid directly to an FAA approved Designated Pilot Examiner, not associated with MTSU).
- Cost of aircraft rental fee for practical test (depends on type of aircraft required and how much flight time is required to complete the check ride).

**VA students must plan to pay for the above listed costs out-of-pocket. Students can request reimbursement for certification expenses directly from the VA using form VA-22-0803. This will use additional benefits.**

If the veteran exhausts the maximum amount the VA will reimburse for a given course, the veteran will be required to pay in advance for any additional training needed to complete the course. In order to be dispatched, the veteran will need at least \$300 in his account to use for that flight. For example, if the student is in a lab with \$14,300 in maximum expected VA reimbursements, the veteran will not be allowed to be dispatched when the balance due exceeds \$14,000. Anything over \$14,000 would need to be paid before any additional lessons/grounds/flights can be completed.

## **Notice to Students using GI Bill® Benefits:**

**\*\*Important information regarding Housing Allowance Rates\*\***

Please be aware that the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) is calculated daily based on each day's enrollment. Once a class is completed, it stops contributing to your course load and consequently your MHA. This is particularly important for flight students taking flight labs or accelerated classes.

- At the end of the semester, the Daniels Center will let the VA know the actual dates for your flight lab. If you complete your **flight lab** on any date other than the last day of the semester, know the flight lab will stop contributing to your course load and your MHA could be reduced. Because the Daniels Center does not know when you complete the lab until the end of the semester, they do not update the VA until that time. Consequently, the VA collects this money after the fact. **How to avoid a VA Debt: TAKE 12 HOURS OF CLASSES THAT GO THE FULL TERM.**
- Similarly, if you are in an accelerated class (one that is in the A1 or A2 semester), understand when that class is not in session, that class is not contributing to the course load/MHA. Since the Daniels Center knows ahead of time when A1/A2 are scheduled, this does not result in a debt, but rather MHA is adjusted to the reduced/increased level during the semester. **How to avoid MHA being reduced during the semester: TAKE 12 HOURS OF CLASSES THAT GO THE FULL TERM OR TAKE A COMPATIBLE NUMBER OF HOURS IN THE OPPOSITE ACCELERATED TERM** (the latter will still result in an MHA reduction for the time in between the end of the A1 and the start of the A2 term).

**BE AWARE:** the minimum number of hours you need to take to receive even a prorated **MHA is 7-credit hours** (for undergraduates). If your course load is less than that, you are not entitled to any MHA.

- **Modality:** Please keep in mind, to ensure full MHA, you must be at full-time status the entire semester and **one of your classes must be residential** (on campus). If your only on-campus class ends early (ex., a flight lab or an accelerated class), your on-campus status ends when that class ends.

## **VA Reimbursements**

VA students must request reimbursement from the VA for a completed course in order to be eligible for a subsequent lab. The veteran is responsible to work with their instructor prior to the end-of-course to reconcile their account (see handout if using DAS) or at the end of the course if no end-of-course is expected. If using FSP only (No DAS), the instructor should review the Reservations Report for the student within FSP and verify that all transactions are billed, all training is logged, and no mismatches exist.

Once the check ride is complete (or course is complete if not completing a check ride), the veteran is responsible to initiate the reimbursement by sending an email notification that they are a veteran, that their check ride is complete, and that their DAS cost report is ready to be reviewed (or that their FSP reconciliation is complete) to [FlightLab@mtsu.edu](mailto:FlightLab@mtsu.edu).



Once the review is complete, the veteran and their instructor will be notified that the report is ready to be signed. The cost report must be reviewed and signed within 14 days of being notified it is ready. If it is not signed within that time, we will assume you agree to the charges as stated and we will submit your document to the business office for processing. Once signed, a copy of the final cost report will be sent to campus for processing. The veteran will also have the final cost report for their records as well as the expected amount due. This will allow them to make prompt payment of any charges that the VA is unlikely to reimburse. Keep in mind, the VA may pay less than the cost report shows for a variety of reasons. Ultimately, the VA will determine the amount of benefits that will be paid; any unpaid amount will remain the responsibility of the veteran.

Students who have not requested reimbursement will not be issued a registration permit for their next lab until the reimbursement is initiated.

Out-of-pocket expenses may be owed at this time and a hold may be put in place on the veteran's account until these out-of-pocket funds are paid. Failure to register by the registration deadline will result in the loss of the lab. This is consistent with the hold policy for non-VA students.

## **SACM Reimbursement Request Process**

SACM students requesting reimbursement letters for check ride and practical test fees from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) may do so by sending an email requesting a reimbursement letter to [Tammy.Freeze@mtsu.edu](mailto:Tammy.Freeze@mtsu.edu) in the ICES office.

The email must include:

- a copy of each receipt associated with the written, examiner, and/or practical test fees
- a copy of the temporary certificate.

ICES will email the student when the letter is ready after all necessary documents have been received and verified. Please allow 2-3 business days for this process.

## **Step 9: Documentation**

On the first day of class, students must present a valid, unexpired U.S. Passport **or** an original state-issued birth certificate **and** a valid government-issued picture I.D. (such as a valid state driver's license). Non-U.S. citizens must present appropriate identification. All students must have a valid first-class or second-class medical (See step 4 above). Failure to bring original documents will result in absences.

## Required Flight Lab Materials Lists

Note: All checklists, standardization manuals, aeronautical charts, approach plates, syllabi, and Safety Practices and Procedures are available for use in either paper or electronic format. Information Manuals, MTSU Checklists and Standardization Manuals, and Safety Practices and Procedures are obtained at the Flight School from your instructor during your first meeting.

### **All Students:**

- \$50 Flight School Publication Fee (*Flight Account will be invoiced for this charge*)
- Current FAR/AIM
- Current AFD-Southeast
- DA40-180 (Diamond Star) Information Manual (*Except Multiengine & MEI Students*)
- MTSU Diamond Star Checklist & Standardization Manual (*Except Multiengine & MEI Students*)
- MTSU Safety Practices & Procedures
- Logbook
- Headset
- Kneeboard
- View-Limiting Device
- Fuel Tester
- E6-B Flight Computer

### **Private Students:**

- Practical Test Standards – Private
- Current Sectional Aeronautical Chart - Atlanta
- Other Current Sectional Aeronautical Charts, as appropriate
- VFR Plotter
- MTSU Private Pilot Certification Course Syllabus

### **Instrument & CFII Students:**

- Airman Certification Standards – Instrument (*Instrument Students Only*)
- Airman Certification Standards – CFII (*CFII Students Only*)
- Current IFR Enroute Low Altitude Charts – L-15/16, L-25/26, L-17/18 or Jeppesen equivalent
- Other Current IFR Enroute Low Altitude Charts, as appropriate
- Current Terminal Procedures (Approach Plates) – SE-1 (TN & KY) or Jeppesen equivalent
- Other Current Terminal Procedures (Approach Plates), as appropriate
- IFR Plotter
- MTSU Instrument Rating Course Syllabus (*Instrument Students Only*)
- MTSU CFII Syllabus (*CFII Students Only*)

**Commercial Students:**

- Practical Test Standards – Commercial
- Current Sectional Aeronautical Charts, as appropriate
- Current IFR Enroute Low Altitude Charts, as appropriate
- Current Terminal Procedures (Approach Plates), as appropriate
- VFR & IFR Plotter
- MTSU Commercial Pilot Certification Course Syllabus

**CFI Students:**

- See course outline for required texts and materials*

**Multiengine & MEI Students:**

- PA-44-180 (Piper Seminole) Information Manual
- MTSU Piper Seminole Checklist & Standardization Manual
- Airman Certification Standards – Commercial (*Multiengine Students Only*)
- Practical Test Standards – MEI (*MEI Students Only*)
- Current Sectional Aeronautical Charts, as appropriate
- Current IFR Enroute Low Altitude Charts, as appropriate (*Multiengine Students Only*)
- Current Terminal Procedures (Approach Plates), as appropriate (*Multiengine Students Only*)
- VFR & IFR Plotter

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Instructor Name & CFI Number) (Print Student Name)

has the appropriate materials, as indicated above, in his/her possession.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Instructor Signature) (Date)

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## Websites

Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) Locator ..... <https://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/>

Financial Aid ..... <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/>

Financial Aid Forms ..... <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/forms.php>

Flight Lab Request Form ..... <http://www.mtsu.edu/aerospace/>

Flight Scheduling / Flight Account .. <https://app.flightschedulepro.com/Account/Login/123057>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ..... <https://fafsa.gov/>

MedXpress - Medical Pre-exam Questionnaire ..... <https://medxpress.faa.gov/>

Paying for Your Flight Lab ..... <http://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/flight-lab.php>

Registration (Pipeline) ..... <https://pipeline.mtsu.edu/>

Registration Guide ..... <https://www.mtsu.edu/registration/registration-guide.php>

Scholarships ..... <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/>

TSA (International Students) ..... <https://fts.tsa.dhs.gov>

