

Student Services as a Foundation of Excellence in Aviation Training: Ground Support for Airborne Dreams

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Jesusa Pasia, 62, is a seasoned educator and student affairs leader with over three decades of dedicated service in aviation higher education. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Baguio Colleges Foundation (now University of the Cordilleras) in Baguio City, she began her professional journey in clinical psychology, serving from 1986 to 1989 at the Philippine Medical Tests System, where she assisted with psychological evaluations for overseas employment applicants. In 1991, she transitioned into academia, joining the Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA) at its Basa Air Base Campus in Floridablanca, Pampanga. Over the years, she has held progressive leadership roles, including Head of the AB Department, College Librarian, Guidance Counselor, and ultimately Head of the Office of Student Affairs. Concurrently, she serves in key designations such as Coordinator of Scholarships and Head of Admissions, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to student development, welfare, and institutional growth. With her extensive experience in guidance, administration, and student leadership formation, Jesusa Pasia brings a wealth of practical

wisdom and insightful perspectives on nurturing the next generation of aviation professionals and leaders. As co-author of this book, she shares proven strategies for fostering resilience, collaboration, and excellence in educational and organizational leadership.

Introduction

Aviation training is an integral part of becoming an aviation professional. Aviation training prepares students with the skills and knowledge needed to safely and efficiently perform their tasks in the aviation industry. As the demand for qualified aviation professionals has increased exponentially with the rapid growth of the aviation industry, the demand for comprehensive aviation training programs has reached an all-time high. In addition to developing technical skills, comprehensive aviation training programs stress the importance of safety and teamwork, which is necessary for success in ground support jobs.

Student services play an important role in enhancing the overall quality of an aviation training program. Student services include, but are not limited to, academic advising, counseling, career services, and tutoring. Student services provide support to students

throughout their academic careers, helping them succeed academically and professionally. The connection between student services and comprehensive aviation training ensures that all future aviation professionals receive a complete education, preparing them to succeed in their careers.

As students progress through their training, the support that they receive becomes increasingly important. Support helps students manage the demands of their aviation education and prepares them for the aviation workforce. The following sections will detail how student services in aviation education support the development of competent, professional aviation professionals ready to meet industry needs. The Aviation Education Student Services Program offers valuable assistance to students on their academic paths and helps them pursue their future careers. Students can use the program's advising/counseling component to set their career goals and determine what education and experience are needed to achieve them, which will guide the best course selections and extracurricular activities to help reach those goals.

In addition to advising/counseling, the program provides academic support services beyond the classroom that pertain to the aviation field. Aviation students need to prepare with the necessary skill set prior to enrolling in their respective aviation programs through tailored study skill assistance that enables them to develop the aptitude and skills to navigate the complexities of an aviation curriculum.

Career Services allows students to connect with aviation industry professionals and access the tools necessary to develop professionally, including networking events, resume-writing workshops, and seminars, as well as an introduction to the job market to prepare for entering the workforce upon graduation.

Overall, the services listed above and others combine to create a holistic educational atmosphere for aviation student services. These services all create an integrated way of supporting students' academic success, well-being, and overall engagement in higher education (Bornschlegl & Caltabiano, 2022).

Using Resources in Education

To develop the skills and knowledge necessary for success in aviation training, educators must provide students with a range of resources and methods to access them. The availability of diverse resources helps stimulate students to ask questions and engage with the material more meaningfully. For example, students may use textbooks to learn about aviation, digital resources to conduct research, and watch

instructional videos about different aspects of the aviation field. When students have immediate access to these resources, they are better positioned to learn complex concepts and apply those concepts in practice.

Simulation facilities provide students with a means to gain hands-on experience while allowing them to practice making mistakes without real-life consequences. The use of simulation facilities supports the development of important skill sets that aid students in their educational and professional development. Simulation activities allow students to enhance their problem-solving and decision-making skills, which are critical to success in aviation (Karlsen et al., 2024). Also, Mentorship programs are an important resource for students as they move forward in their academic journey. Mentors create a bridge between theory and practical application by connecting students with experienced professionals. A mentor provides guidance. The supportive environment formed by the use of teaching resources, simulation-based experiences, and mentoring fosters a conducive atmosphere that cultivates students' skill sets and prepares them to enter the workforce upon graduation.

Students will thrive in a positive atmosphere and will receive positive reinforcement to build confidence in their own abilities to perform to the best of their potential; therefore, as they go through aviation school, schools are responsible for assisting students with the mental and emotional aspects of aviation training, and the emotional challenges that many students may face throughout their lives.

Airline Support, and Education: Facilities for Aviation Students

Airline support and educational facilities play a vital role in the development of competent aviation professionals. Through partnerships with airlines and access to well-equipped training facilities, aviation students gain practical experience, industry exposure, and hands-on learning essential to their academic and professional growth. These resources help bridge the gap between theoretical instruction and real-world aviation practice.

Students who attend aviation schools need to be supported with a variety of resources, including:

1. Counseling

Counseling should be part of the services students receive at aviation schools. The aviation training process is a taxing process for students, which can create a great deal of mental stress and other emotional issues. To help alleviate these stressors, schools

should provide a counseling center so students can receive support when needed. Students who are struggling with their coursework should not hesitate to use counseling services; therefore, each school's counseling centre should provide a safe, confidential, and comfortable setting for aviation students so they may receive the support they need to overcome the challenges they may face while completing their degree program.

2. Stress Management Techniques

In addition to having access to counselling, students should also learn how to manage tactical stress related to their academic success. Stress management seminars will help students develop the techniques they need to manage their individual stressors.

Stress management seminars will provide students with a variety of ways to manage their stressors, including identifying the sources of their stress, applying coping strategies to reduce stress levels, and developing time management skills. This training will enable students to manage the academic stress created by their coursework and to develop a sense of belonging and community by networking with fellow students and learning how to support one another.

3. Peer Support Groups

Peer support groups are an additional means through which aviation students can maintain themselves. Students seeking education and training in aviation must identify not only the educational aspect but also their financial situation. While maintaining adequate mental health is important for achieving success as a student, a student's financial status has a significant effect on the ability to obtain an advanced degree and on the financial means to continue doing so.

Types Of Financial Support Available for Aviation Education

Several types of financial assistance are available for students pursuing aviation education, including grants, loans, work-study programs. Most notably, the Philippine government provides free higher education, which offers the most promising support for eligible students. These financial assistance programs significantly help reduce the financial burden of earning a degree in aviation while completing academic training. All of these forms of assistance will help alleviate the financial burden of the student pursuing a degree in aviation while attending school. The most significant source of assistance in the form of scholarships that provide financial assistance is through nonprofit organizations, private individuals, and

businesses associated with the aviation industry. Many of the awards differ significantly in their eligibility requirements and the amount of funding offered; however, most will provide funding to students who would otherwise be unable to afford tuition and training expenses and therefore would not be able to pursue a degree in aviation.

Access to financial assistance and encouragement to apply and pursue education increase for prospective students when they perceive that funding is available. More students enrolling creates a broader, more diverse, and better-informed student population and contributes positively to the aviation industry's growth and to the overall learning experience in a friendly and supportive educational environment. By receiving these resources, students can devote more time and effort to their education and to developing their skills and abilities, while removing the financial burden of school-related expenses.

As students work through their financial concerns related to their education, they begin to build relationships with fellow students and mentors who share their interests and goals. The establishment of a supportive network among fellow students may play a key role in student development by providing an environment in which students can assist, inspire, and foster collaboration and collective learning.

Creating a Support Network

To create a supportive community within aviation training, students must feel a sense of belonging in their training. Furthermore, students can form many new relationships with peers, industry partners, and alumni who have traveled similar pathways for job success, which is one way networking helps aviation students. Providing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among aviation students includes involvement with organizations focused on aviation. Aviation student groups provide an avenue for students to connect with peers, industry professionals, and alumni, becoming more knowledgeable about the industry through opportunities to hear guest speakers and obtain firsthand experiences from those currently in the aviation profession.

An important aspect of creating a community of support is alumni mentoring current students. Alumni return to their institutions or organizations to assist and counsel students on how to succeed based on their own experiences. This creates an environment that not only enriches the educational program for current students but also provides opportunities for them to obtain faculty recommendations and



internships or future job placements. When current students recognize that their establishment has a solid quality of support, in that many others understand first-hand the difficulties that current students face, they can create an atmosphere that promotes both academic and professional success.

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