

Ph.D. in Aviation

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Aviation is designed for working professionals seeking to advance their knowledge and conduct research in aviation, contributing to the body of aviation knowledge. The program includes study across areas of aviation and supports development of research skills within the field.

At the **Daytona Beach Campus**, the program is structured through a flexible, primarily online and hybrid format that allows students to continue professional employment while pursuing doctoral education. The program consists of 60 graduate credit hours, including 36 credit hours of coursework, 6 credit hours of residency, and 18 credit hours dedicated to dissertation research. Coursework includes core courses, specialization courses and electives. Students complete a qualifying examination administered over a two-day period to assess subject mastery and readiness for dissertation research. The dissertation is conducted under the advisement of a Dissertation Advisory Committee and must be successfully completed and defended.

Students are required to complete three five-day on-campus residency seminars at the Daytona Beach Campus. These residencies include structured academic activities and provide opportunities for interaction with faculty, staff and other students, supporting preparation for subsequent phases of the program. Residency seminars are scheduled during mid-August. Applications, including all supporting documents, are due by February 1 for the August cohort. The School of Graduate Studies also offers a residential option for students who choose to complete required portions of the program on campus. Assistantship positions may be available to qualified residential students, subject to program resources and approval. Eligibility and continuation of assistantships are governed by University Academic Doctorate Policies.