

Aviation

Future Pilot Program Guide

2026



**Northwestern
Michigan College**

Aviation



Ignite your potential into a high-demand pilot career.

- ▶ Big program resources, small school feel: Experience personalized mentorship and small classes where you aren't just a number.
- ▶ NMC's tuition lets you save money while completing everything you'd expect in a four-year school in just two calendar years.

A place for you to soar.

Located in Traverse City, Northwestern Michigan College offers unmatched learning for aspiring pilots in four seasons of flying experience.

NMC's professional pilot program offers an efficient and economical route to the cockpit. Highly respected in the aviation industry, it's designed to get you flying in the first semester — an experience you won't find anywhere else.

LAUNCH YOUR PILOT CAREER FASTER

- FAA PART 141 ACADEMY
- NMC Aviation has direct access to the TVC airport, the third busiest in Michigan.
- TVC's towered airport handles commercial airlines and business aviation flights, supported by a vibrant Traverse City community.

Fleet

Aircraft

Cessna 172 (Glass Cockpit)	15
Piper Seminole Twin-Engine	2
AC Super Decathlon	2
Piper Super Cub Seaplane	1

Simulators

Frasca 172 AATD	2
Redbird BTD	1

Captains at major airlines typically earn

\$200K to \$300K+

-Boeing Pilot and Technician Outlook



NMC said I'd be in a plane on DAY ONE of aviation school.

Other programs said I probably wouldn't fly until my sophomore or junior year. You have a two-year lead entering the workforce.

-Benjamin Ertl, class of 2025, current flight instructor



@NMCAviation
@NMC_Aviation



Aviation Degree

- To obtain the Associate in Applied Science degree, students must complete at least 3 NMC flight courses and 64 credit hours.
- All AVF and AVG courses must be completed with a grade of 2.0 or better. Please consult an NMC Aviation advisor for specific grading policies.
- Students arriving with a PPL will receive 10 certification credits for AVG 101 Private Ground School and AVF 111 Private Flight. Instrument ratings will not transfer and must be completed at NMC.

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

Complete CFI/CFII ratings to be eligible for flight instructing opportunities at NMC and elsewhere, while building hours and working on an advanced degree.



**Land a
job sooner.**

Partnerships

NMC has agreements in place with a variety of regional airlines, offering amazing incentives for qualified graduates.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OPTIONS

- Bachelor's in Business Management Aviation Specialty, Davenport University
- Bachelor's in Leadership and Business Fundamentals, Grand Valley State

ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES

Meet recruiters from visiting airlines, business aviation, and freight carriers eager to recruit NMC Aviation graduates.



Air Wisconsin
AIRLINES CORPORATION

envoy

EXPRESSJET

**NORTHERN JET
MANAGEMENT**

ENDEAVOR AIR

Amway

REPUBLIC AIRLINE
A REPUBLIC AIRWAYS COMPANY



Degree Requirements

General Education: 17-18 credits

- Communications: 7-8 credits
 - ENG 111 English Composition
 - AND One of the following:
 - ENG 112 English Composition
 - ENG 220 Technical Writing
 - BUS 231 Professional Communications
- Humanities: Any Group 1 Course
 - Art, Dance, History, Humanities, Literature, Music, Philosophy/Religion, and/or World Language
- Social Science: Any Group 1 course
 - Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and/or Sociology
- Science: Any Group 1 Course with lab
 - Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental, and/or Physics
- Math: Placement into MTH 111 Intermediate Algebra or higher
 - Or completion of MTH 100 Quantitative Literacy

Aviation Courses: 47 credits

- AVG 101 Private Ground
- AVF 111 Private Flight
- AVG 252 Instrument Ground
- AVG 132 Instrument Flight
- AVG 102 Leadership in Aviation
- AVG 251 Commercial Ground
- AVF 230 Commercial Flight I
- AVF 232 Commercial Flight II
- AVF 234 Commercial Flight III
- AVF 271 Multi-Engine Rating
- AVG 202 Advanced Aircraft Systems
- AVG 161 Mechanics for Pilots
- AVG 190 Aviation Weather
- AVG 175 Aviation Safety
- AVF 274 Tailwheel Flight
- AVF 275 Seaplane Flight
- AVF 283 Upset Maneuver Training
- AVG 285 Crew Resource Management
- AVG 381 Instructor Ground (CFI)
- AVF 382 Flight Instructor Rating (CFI)
- AVF 284 Instrument Flight Instructor (CFII)

Exceptional
Value.



FAQ

Where do students live?

Students can live right on campus in NMC's residence halls or campus apartments. Many flight students also choose to rent off-campus apartments or houses in the surrounding Traverse City community.

What is the average class size?

Class sizes vary by course, but aviation classes are kept small—typically averaging 20 students and capped at no more than 25—to ensure personalized instruction and direct access to your instructors.

What if I already have my Private Pilot License (PPL)?

Applicants with a PPL earn extra competitive admission points and receive priority placement. Once enrolled, your license transfers as 10 credit hours (covering AVG 101 and AVF 111), advancing you straight to Instrument Training and saving an estimated \$21,000. To transfer these credits, your PPL must be officially earned and in hand by the first of the month before your start date.

Does winter affect flight training?

Weather affects all flight programs, but NMC keeps your training moving year-round while building valuable four-season flying experience. Our annual two-week winter trip to Florida allows students to log 30–40 flight hours, complete cross-country requirements, and finish checkrides with no extra program fees besides lodging.

How long is the program?

The baseline timeline is two calendar years, which includes 1–2 semesters of general education and 5 semesters of year-round flight training. However, you can significantly shorten this timeline through transfer credits. Holding a PPL, bringing in prior college or AP/dual enrollment credits, or satisfying course requirements through SAT/ACT scores and placement testing will reduce your required course load and accelerate your graduation.

Flight Ratings

Private Pilot License
Instrument Rating
Commercial Pilot License
Multi-Engine Rating
CFI Certified Flight Instructor
CFII Instrument Instructor
MEI Multi-Engine Instructor
Tailwheel Endorsement
Seaplane Rating
Complex Pilot Endorsement

FAA Part 141

- Reduced ATP from 1,500 hrs to 1,250 hrs
- Reduced age requirement from 23 to 21

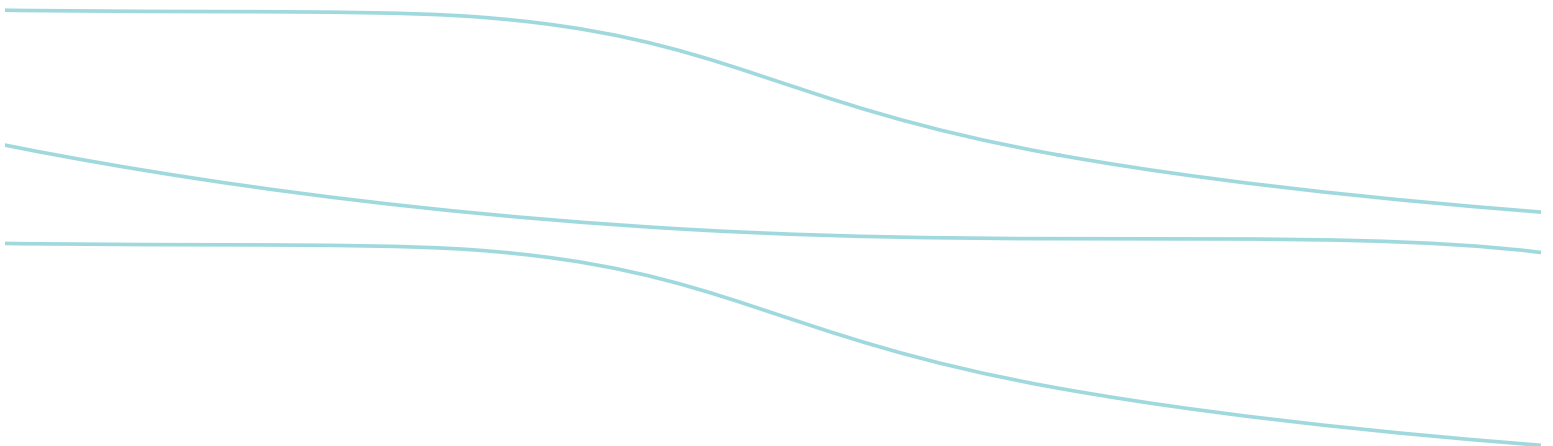




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Application



NMC Aviation Application Checklist

Thank you for your interest in NMC Aviation!

Complete the following steps to apply to the program. These items are designed to address the most common challenges students face, ensuring you are fully prepared to succeed in your flight training. Please note that you must complete both a general application to NMC and a separate application to the Aviation program. Students are accepted based on meeting competitive admission requirements.

Please submit all completed forms and documents directly to your Aviation Advisor.

1. Apply to the Pre-Aviation Program:

Complete your general application to NMC online at nmc.edu/admissions/futurestudents.

2. Complete the Student Information Sheet:

Submit the student information form included in this packet.

3. Provide Your FAA Medical Certificate:

Submit a copy of your FAA Medical Certificate.

Must be received at least two months prior to the semester start date to hold a student flight spot.

4. Complete Your Financial Plan:

Fill out the financial plan form included in this packet to cover the first two semesters' expected costs.

Students are placed into ENG 11/111 or higher by meeting one of the following standards:

High School GPA: 2.70 or higher, or

SAT: 480 or higher on the Reading and Writing test, or

ACT: 19 or higher on the English portion and 19 or higher on the Reading portion, or GED: 175 or higher.

General admission to NMC does not guarantee acceptance into the Aviation program. You must complete the four steps above and receive a specific acceptance notification directly from NMC Aviation before you can register for any flight courses.

Understanding Our Competitive Admissions Process

Due to high demand and limited flight slots, NMC Aviation utilizes a points-based competitive admissions process to evaluate and place applicants. To qualify, you must meet our baseline requirements: a 2.5 high school or college GPA and a minimum of 5 points on the admissions rubric. Since students with higher point totals are prioritized for placement and the full admissions timeline typically takes about a year for qualified candidates, we strongly recommend starting your application early, ideally during your junior or early senior year of high school.



Northwestern Michigan College

Aviation Program Competitive Admissions Rubric

Criteria	Possible Points	Max Points Possible
Previous Academic Degree		3
Bachelor’s Degree	3	
Associate’s Degree	2	
Private Pilot License (must complete by 1st of month prior to semester start)		5
General Education credits earned toward Aviation Degree		3
13-18 credits	3	
5-12 Credits	2	
3-4 Credits	1	
GPA (High School or College)		3
3.5 to 4.0	3	
3.0 to 3.49	2	
2.5 to 2.99	1	
Other Requirements Completed		
First Class Medical		
Financial Plan Signed		
Total Max Points		14





Aviation
Northwestern Michigan College

Graduated: _____
Terminated: _____
Transferred: _____
CFI: _____

For official use only

Flight Student Information

Date: _____ Email: _____ NMC ID: _____

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Birthdate : _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
MM/ DD/ YY

Local Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Emergency Contact: (Parents' Names and/or Spouse)

1 _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

2 _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

****SECTION BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY NMC AVIATION STAFF****

Enrollment Type: ☐ Part 141 ☐ Part 61 ☐ Rating Only ☐ Enrolled NMC Student



FAA Medical Certificate

All NMC flight students must hold a current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Medical Certificate prior to flight training. This certificate confirms your physical and mental fitness to operate aircraft and is issued by an FAA-approved Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) following an application and physical exam.

While student pilots are legally only required to hold a Third-Class Medical, we strongly recommend securing a First-Class Medical Certificate before beginning your training. Before investing two years and significant resources into your education, it is vital to confirm that you meet the medical qualifications required for long-term career employment at the airlines.

During your exam, the AME will review your medical history, current medications, surgical history, mental health background, and legal history. If any condition requires additional evaluation at the FAA headquarters level, lengthy administrative delays are common. We advise obtaining your certificate 6 to 10 months before coming to NMC. If you have a known medical or legal issue, consult an experienced AME as early as possible to navigate the review process.

Your MedXpress application is an official legal document. You are required to accurately report:

- All current medications and health conditions
- Past medical history and visits to health professionals
- Alcohol or drug-related motor vehicle convictions
- Non-traffic misdemeanors or felonies

Providing false or incomplete information carries severe legal penalties from the FAA and may result in the immediate revocation of your certifications.

Flight safety is paramount. All participating flight students are enrolled in NMC's drug and alcohol misuse prevention program, which operates in strict accordance with FAA regulations. Testing may be conducted based on reasonable cause (observed behavior, speech, or odor) or following an accident or incident. Positive test results will result in immediate suspension from flight training and may lead to dismissal from the program.

Application Instructions

Follow these steps to complete your FAA Medical application:

1. Access the MedXpress Portal: Go to the online application at medxpress.faa.gov.
2. Create your account: Accept the disclaimer and set up your user profile.
3. Complete the application: Select First-Class Medical Certificate and complete all history sections thoroughly and accurately.
4. Save your confirmation number: Once submitted, write down your confirmation number and keep a printed copy of your application for your records. Your AME will need this number to access your file.
5. Schedule your examination: Book an appointment with a local FAA-approved Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) and bring your confirmation number to the visit.



Financial Plan

By completing this plan, students communicate their financial readiness to us to begin flight training. In the process, some students may discover that adequate resources to ensure their success are not yet in place and that delaying the program's start until sufficient funding is secured is the wiser move. The estimated cost, based on FAA Minimum Flight hours for Private Flight, Instrument Flight, Commercial Flight, Multi-Engine Flight, and Certified Flight Instructor, is \$63,797.80. Each person will incur different costs to complete the Aviation Program based on the courses taken and the student's rate of progression. The following estimates represent NMC student averages based on current tuition and flight fees for Private, Instrument, Commercial, Multi-Engine, and CFI:

	In-district	In-state	Out of State
Full Tuition:	\$12,981.00	\$22,901.00	\$28,469.00
Flight Fee Average:	\$91,105.10	\$91,105.10	\$91,105.10
Totals:	\$104,086.10	\$114,006.10	\$119,574.10

By providing the requested information below and signing this form, you demonstrate that you understand the costs of the program and have gone through the planning that is necessary to cover the expected costs. It is best to plan for flight fee average hours rather than the minimums.

1. Select your residency status below.

In-district (Grand Traverse County resident)

In-State

Out of State
2. I understand that program costs will vary for each student and that room and board costs are in addition to the figures shown above. (initials)

You may need to submit your FAFSA first to determine the amount of financial aid available to you from NMC before you are able to complete your financial plan.

Personal/Parent Funds

Federal Student Loans

Pell Grant

Other Student Loans Lender name

Other Funding Sources (Scholarships, trust funds, TIP, MESP, etc.)

Total

Student Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature



Flight Fees (wet)

Effective August 24th 2026

<u>Aircraft Type</u>	<u>Solo</u>	<u>Dual</u>
Super Cub	\$194	\$256
Decathlon	\$194	\$256
Cessna 172 (S)	\$215	\$277
Piper Aztec	\$267	\$337
Piper Seminole	\$346	\$416

Frasca 172		\$148
Redbird	\$5	\$67

Dual rate is \$62 per single engine flight/ground hour.

Dual rate is \$70 per multi engine flight/ground hour.

G-172 (S) = Glass Cockpit/S model

Fuel cost are included in the posted rates. Only if necessary, will we add an additional fuel surcharge based on the rise of fuel prices.



Aviation Scholarships

In addition to the scholarship opportunities unlocked by filling out your FAFSA, such as the Michigan Community College Guarantee, Michigan Reconnect and NMC Foundation scholarships, aviation students can offset flight training and tuition costs through 14 external, industry-backed scholarships.



nmc.edu/aviation-scholarships

- AOPA Flight Training: Grants funding directly to student pilots to support primary flight training and advanced ratings.
- Avfuel Scholarships: Provides recurring financial awards for flight training, continuing education, and career growth.
- Drone Pilot Ground School Scholarship: Financial assistance for students pursuing commercial remote pilot training and drone technology credentials.
- Elevate UAS Scholarship: Supports students entering the uncrewed aerial systems and commercial drone sector.
- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA): Offers flight training scholarships for aspiring general aviation and career pilots.
- Joshua Esch Mitchell Aviation Scholarship: Offered through the Grand Rapids Community Foundation for regional aviation students.
- Michigan Aviation Education Foundation (MAEF): Delivers state-level grants for local pilots and aviation students.
- National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) & Michigan Business Aviation Association (MBAA): Targets students building careers in corporate aviation, business piloting, and flight department leadership.
- National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA): Offers flight training scholarships supporting LGBTQ+ pilots and allies.
- Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP): Supplies flight training awards and mentorship for underrepresented minority aviators.
- University Aviation Association (UAA): Grants collegiate awards specifically for students enrolled in accredited university aviation programs.
- Women in Aviation International (WAI) & The Ninety Nines: Deliver flight certificate, rating, and academic awards tailored for women in aviation.

Search for additional general aid opportunities at Fastweb.com.

