

Assessment of Collegiate Flight Training during FAA Industry Training Standards (FITS) Program in combined Private/Instrument Curriculum

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Collegiate flight training curriculum has changed over the past several years. The early era of flight training involved teaching pilots “stick and rudder” skills in conventionally equipped aircraft. With the arrival of the “glass cockpit” or technically advanced aircraft into general aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) introduced FAA Industry Training Standards (FITS) curriculum that placed emphasis on risk management, aeronautical decision-making, situational awareness, and single pilot resource management using scenario-based, learner-focused pilot training. Jacksonville University’s Aeronautics program, in cooperation with its flight-training provider participated in the FITS curriculum from fall 2008 through fall 2011. In addition to using FITS, Jacksonville University also moved to a combined Private/Instrument curriculum in technically advanced aircraft. This study examined archival student records of both FITS and non-FITS curriculum, in technically advanced aircraft and conventional aircraft respectively, to assess the role the curriculum and aircraft had on student total training time and end-of-course checkride success.

Keywords: Collegiate Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, FITS, Technically Advanced Aircraft