

Parks Aviation Safety Newsletter

Parks College Safety Committee

2/22/2021

Edition 5 Volume 5

Professionalism

By *Grace Kane*

Although it may seem like a ways away from when we trade in our private or commercial pilot certificate for a type rating, our journey as aviation professionals began the moment we enrolled in a collegiate flight program. The term aviation professional does not just constitute an individual who is paid to fly, but also includes one who aspires to assume a role of that nature in the future. One's attitude, character, and dedication are a range of elements that contribute to an aviation professional.

The first aspect of an aviation professional's mindset that I wish to discuss is attitude. If you desire to fly for a Part 121 Airline or Part 135 Charter Operator in the future, then you will be required to undergo recurrent training and a check ride every six months. With prolonged periods of not flying such as the summer and winter break, it can be easy to get lost in our busy schedules as students and push reviewing aviation knowledge aside. However, a professional pilot will set aside time each night or week to review procedures and enhance their knowledge on aviation. Similar to the safety committee's continuous efforts at the Center of Aviation Science to hold our program to the highest safety standard, bettering yourself as an aviation professional is a continuous process which requires time and attention.

The FAA lays out specific standards on what a student needs to pass written tests, oral exams, and practical exams. On written examinations, one must obtain at least a 70 percent to receive a pass. As a professional, it is important to understand that these are just the minimums and to demonstrate true professionalism one must work to exceed these minimums and excel at the requirements. The attitude we approach our flight training in can assist in avoiding the 5 hazardous attitudes of anti-authority, impulsivity, invulnerability, macho, and resignation and can make us overall safer pilots.

How you conduct yourself and your presentation says a lot about your ability to become a competent, successful and professional pilot. Being aware of your character isn't just important when in the cockpit or at the airport, but also when you are going about your daily and social life. What you do when no one is watching or when away from an aviation setting is perhaps more important as those habits carry into the cockpit. Respecting the regulations, procedures and process of flight training as well as respecting your classmates and instructors can help manage risks.

The final mindset that impacts professionalism is dedication. A dedicated pilot plans all aspects of their flight before executing, uses experiences to grow their skills, and controls complacency. The quality of your training depends on what you put into it and if you prove you are dedicated and passionate about learning you will be a successful pilot.

Overall, conducting yourself in a professional manner in the flight training environment is essential to having efficient operations and enhancing our safety culture at Parks College. Practicing professionalism now will prove to be crucial to being successful in the future and representing our university well in the industry. Be someone a company wants to hire by continually working on bettering yourself as a professional!

