Flight Lab Award Checklist

Flight labs are awarded to eligible students prior to the start of the semester. To receive and retain a flight lab, you must complete ALL of the steps outlined below. Many of these steps can and should be completed well before the start of the semester. Late requests will be awarded only after all other requests are considered.

If all of these requirements are not met, you will not receive or retain a flight lab for the semester

1. Apply for financial aid – Students should apply for financial aid as soon as possible. DO NOT WAIT until you are registered for a lab to begin your financial aid applications.
   b. http://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/flight-lab.php

2. Apply for TSA approval (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY) – All international students must receive permission to train from the TSA. This can take several months. It is important that all international students diligently work on this multi-step process to prevent delays in training. All MTSU flight training is categorized as Category 3.

3. Submit your Flight Lab Request Form – Students must request a flight lab request for a given semester. Only the final submission for a given semester will be reviewed. Forms can be found at: http://www.mtsu.edu/aerospace/
   a. The flight lab request form includes a financial aid section to notify financial aid of your expected need and an authorization section to allow the business office to move financial aid directly into your flight account. Students without a financial aid need denoted on their flight lab request form or those that do not grant permission for aid to be transferred may not be eligible for an extension should a funding delay occur.

4. Obtain an FAA Medical - Students must have a 2nd Class Medical Certificate (with at least 3rd class privileges) prior to the start of classes. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the physical well before the start of the semester to identify and resolve any concerns. Concerns may take months to resolve. In most cases, the medical is valid for 60 months for individuals under 40 years old. Private Pilot students will need to email a copy of their medical to FlightLab@mtsu.edu in order to register for their lab.
   a. Pre-exam questionnaire - https://medxpress.faa.gov/
   b. Schedule exam with Aviation Medical Examiner (AME)
      i. AMEs can be found at: https://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/

5. Register for all other classes – Students should register for the upcoming semester during the normal registration window. Students will not be able to register for flight labs or ground courses (beyond AERO 2230) until the associated lab is awarded. Students requesting the private lab must be registered for, or have taken, AERO 2230 in order to be eligible for a Private Pilot (AERO 2201) lab award. Advanced labs and associated ground courses require specific permission of the department that is only issued after lab awards are announced. Students will not be able to register for these flight labs or ground courses until flight labs are awarded.
6. Complete any Prerequisite Certificate/Rating – Students must complete any prerequisite certificate/rating in order to register for the subsequent flight lab and co-requisite ground course. Priority during the lab award process will be given to students with completed prerequisites by the end of the previous semester (Fall and Spring Only).
   a. Students that have completed a certificate/rating outside of MTSU and did not attach a copy with their lab request must email a copy of their temporary certificate to FlightLab@mtsu.edu to receive a permit to register. This copy must be received prior to the priority deadline to receive priority.

7. Receive Flight Lab Award and Register for the Flight Lab Course & Co-requisite Ground – Flight lab awards are communicated via e-mail soon after the conclusion of the preceding semester (i.e., mid-summer for the fall). Students should register for their flight lab and ground course through Pipeline as soon as the lab is awarded and their registration permits are issued. Registration permits are only issued once the lab is awarded and the prerequisite certificate/rating is complete. Private Pilot students will need to email a copy of their medical to FlightLab@mtsu.edu in order to register. Failing to complete the certificate/rating, failing to register for the flight lab, or failing to register for the co-requisite ground by the deadline indicated in the award e-mail will result in loss of the lab.
   a. Registration Permits for flight labs and ground courses (beyond AERO 2230) are issued by the flight school once all requirements are met.
   b. Registration Permits are only issued during normal business hours.

8. Fund Flight Account1 – Flight accounts must be fully-funded prior to the start of classes. Payment methods can be found in the “Paying for your flight lab” section. The exact payment due date will be listed in the lab award email (typically by 4:30 pm the Friday before classes start). This allows for financial aid to disburse (typically the Thursday before classes start). Financial aid should be authorized to be transferred in order to prevent losing a lab due to the delay a refund will cause. Students authorize the transfer as part of the lab request. Parents must submit a specialized form (available at the business office) to authorize financial aid be transferred for loans in which they selected “refund to parent.”
   a. Financial aid delays do not negate the attendance policy for the course.
   b. If a delay in financial aid occurs due to causes beyond the student’s control, students may be allowed to begin training with less than the full amount. Delays are very rare and require documentation to begin with less than the full amount. A refund delaying funding is not an adequate justification for an extension. For information regarding extensions, please review the “Paying for your flight lab” section of this guide.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF FLIGHT LAB:

9. Documentation – Students must present a valid unexpired U.S. Passport or an original state-issued birth certificate and a valid government-issued picture I.D. (such as a valid state driver’s license). Non-U.S. citizens must present appropriate identification. All students must have a valid medical (See step 4 above).

NOTES:
1. Flight account deposit requirements do NOT apply to 100% eligible VA students. Please reference the VA section of this guide for additional details.
2. For students enrolling in initial flight training (AERO 2201), an application for a student pilot certificate will be completed during the first meeting. The student pilot certificate must be received prior to solo flight.

Process questions may be answered by MTSU Flight Dispatch: 615-890-5755