Comprehensive Program Review Report
Academic Program Name: Cert AST
School: Aviation
Department: AMT
CPR Review Schedule AY24-25

Provosts Response:

I concur with the dean's recommendation to retain the Certificate in Aviation Structural Technology. While the program currently reflects low enrollment, it remains strategically relevant due to its seamless integration with the Associate of Science in Aviation Structural Technology and the absence of additional delivery costs. Recent increases in applications—driven by proactive program-level outreach—indicate promising potential for growth. Continued recruitment, paired with alignment to workforce needs in aviation maintenance, will be essential for long-term viability. The program should continue to be monitored annually to assess enrollment stabilization and ensure alignment with industry demands and institutional priorities.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.
X Program MEETS Institution's Criteria
☐ Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
☐ Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.
☐ Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in
☐ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria
☐ Program will be placed on a 1 year monitoring status.
☐ Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
☐ Program will be deactivated.
☐ Program will be voluntarily terminated.
☐ Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature: Date: 9/10/25

Comprehensive Program Review

FY 202024 – 2025

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: Aircraft Structural Technology Certificate

College or School: School of Aviation

Department: Aviation Maintenance and Structural Technology

CIP Code: 47.0607

Date of Last Internal Review: 2019-2020

Faculty Completing Report: Martin Kehayes

Current Date: 3/25/25

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	5 YR Growth
Macon	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Cochran	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Warner Robins	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Dublin	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Eastman	12	9	6	6	15	*
Online	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Off Campus	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	12	9	6	6	15	25.00%

*** No growth shown. Numbers vacillate over the 5 year period. However, fall 2025 looks promising with 21 applications currently.**

Graduates

AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	AY 2024	5 YR Growth
18	11	6	14	3	**

****No growth demonstrated. See final notes in narrative.**

Include a narrative that discusses:

Narrative

- **Program purpose and mission**

  The role of the Aircraft Structural Technology (AST) program is to prepare the student to enter the aviation industry with the skill set necessary to be a competent entry-level structural mechanic.

- **Align of program mission with department, school, and institutional mission**

  The mission statement of the University is as follows, ***"Middle Georgia State University educates, and graduates inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region and the state."***. Compare that with the School of Aviation mission, ***"The School of Aviation educates and prepares students for technical and management careers in the aviation, aerospace, and related industries, who understand the industry and organizations they are part of, and the communities they serve"***.
  Aviation Structural Technology complements the school of aviation and helps provide industry with the structural mechanics needed to meet the looming shortages in the industry. As a part of the School of Aviation, it supports the critical workforce development role that Middle Georgia State University plays in Georgia. The AST program is a valuable part of the whole. It would be difficult to imagine a School of Aviation that did not represent the vast part of the aviation industry that is maintenance related.

- **Program age, tracks, concentrations, etc.**

  Established in 1996 as part of Heart of Georgia Technical College, the Aviation Structural Technology Program (ASTP) is in its 229th year at its current location at the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport. The Aircraft Structural Technology program is the oldest of the aviation training programs within the School of Aviation. In 1987, then Heart of Georgia Technical College, opened a satellite campus in Eastman, GA, for the purpose of offering aircraft structural maintenance training. Over the past 30 plus years, this program has provided hundreds of skilled aircraft structural technicians to industry. Many of the aviation businesses in middle Georgia have benefited from these well-trained graduates.
  The two-semester long program consists of 9 classes. To complete the contact hours within two semesters, the student must attend class Monday- Thursday, from 9am until 4:30pm. Part time, dual enrollment students meet Monday- Thursday, from 1:30pm- 4:30 pm, and may complete the program in two years.

- **Accreditation information/status**

  The AST program meets the requirements of the University for SACS accreditation. This program does not fall under the oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration, as does the Aviation Maintenance Technology program. This independence allows for more rapid change in curriculum, to meet the needs of industry.

- **Method(s) of delivery**

  The AST certificate program is delivered "Brick and Mortar" primarily, due to the lab intensive courses. For the more theory-based courses, such as blueprint reading, technical math, etc. hybrid courses are employed.

  The Aviation Maintenance and Structural Technology department is working to expand the geographical area of delivery of the AST program by partnering with the college and career academies. Currently, the AMST department is working with Griffin Region College and Career Academy, to deliver the Aviation Maintenance Technology program for DE in the Spalding, Pike, and Butts County area. Depending on the growth of the AMT program and interest, AST could be a viable option for program delivery in this area. However, currently no satellite AST courses are available.

- **Changes since the last review**

  Dual enrollment is now available for the AST program. High school students from Dodge and adjoining counties may take AST courses in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30. Dual enrollment students that begin the AST program at the beginning of their junior year may complete the program by the end of their senior year.

- **Benchmarks of progress**

  Traditionally, enrollment in this program has ebbed and flowed in reaction to the hiring needs of Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex. Over the past decade, enrollment in AST has been low, a reflection of the infrequent hiring of WRALC. The WRALC operated as if immune from the personnel shortages being observed by much of the aviation maintenance industry. This trend seems to be coming to an end. The WRALC is beginning to show signs of personnel shortages and is more aggressively recruiting our graduates. **Spring 2024 cohort of AST graduates experienced 100% employment at WRALC.** Consequently, the enrollment in this program is "creeping" up. Over the past five-year period the numbers show a 25% growth rate. Currently, over 20 students have applied to start the AST program in fall of 2025.

  Lastly, MGA is finishing up work on a collaborative grant proposal, with Georgia Tech, the University of South Carolina, Savannah State, and Qarbon. The NASA grant is, in part, to study the viability of additive maintenance and repair on Urban Air Mobility vehicles and Unmanned Air Vehicles. Georgia Tech approached MGA with interest in both of our aircraft maintenance related programs, AST for its focus on manufacturing and repair, and AMT for its focus on continued airworthiness.

- **Plans for action**

  - Continue to partner with Griffin Region College and Career Academy to deliver the AMT program dual enrollment, with the possibility of adding AST as interest is present.
  - Continue to market DE AST to the high schools of Dodge and surrounding counties.
  - In cooperation with industry, continue to develop the AST program curriculum to reflect the needs of a rapidly evolving industry.

- **Shifting trends and market forces that may impact program demand**

  In summary, while the AST program has had it struggles of late, the future looks bright, and continued growth in enrollment looks promising, based on the following indicators:

  - Enrollment is slowly, but steadily on the rise.
  - Employers such as WRALC, Gulfstream Aerospace, Embraer, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and NAVAIR, are actively recruiting our graduates.
  - The high school dual enrollment program is still in its infancy and has not been adequately marketed to the sizeable population that could benefit from the educational opportunity. This is an area for much growth and will benefit the economy of the region. High school students, and their parents, are beginning to see the many benefits of a technical education.
  - Federal "Pathways Internships" for AST appear to be increasing.
  - Partnerships with the college and career academy show promises for a wider delivery area.

Lastly, MGA serves many valuable roles in the middle Georgia community. One, as an access institution. The Aircraft Structural Technology program contributes to this role. With one year of training, a Georgia citizen can gain access into the aerospace industry. This program is very affordable, does not require a large investment of time, and has enabled many of our citizens to lift themselves up into a career, or retrain after a layoff. While the AST program has been weathering recent storms, the skies seem to be clearing, and the future looks promising. Aircraft Structural Technology has helped many and promises to help many more.

The narrative should be as direct as possible and no longer than three pages.

IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed: April 30, 2025

Program Reviewed: Aircraft Structural Technology Certificate

Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program
This program needs to meet primarily face to face due to lab intensive requirements. Has had limited enrollment for the past 4 years. Actively working to expand program with the addition of dual enrollment options and possible satellite locations.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	*This **program** has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production*	*This **program** has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production*	*This **program** has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production*		**No significant steady growth. Numbers decreased from 2020 and then held steady. Fall 2025 shows strong potential for an increase though.**
Graduation Trends USG benchmark: **Bachelor's Degrees**: 10 graduates/year **Graduate, Associate's or Certificates**: 5 graduates/year	*Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred*	*Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred*			Program graduation rate has decreased along with enrollment. USG benchmark met with the exception of 2024. Expectation is that graduation rates will continue to grow with enrollment.

IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"					

Program Strengths of Note: The program shows a promising increase in potential enrollment for Fall. The addition of the dual enrollment option offers increased flexibility for students. Development of strong community partnerships can also add to potential enrollment. Hiring potential appears to be increasing as well.

Areas of Concern: extreme variability in enrollment and graduation rates. Employment potential strongly tied to RAFB making it subject to the variability in civilian hiring practices.

Other Comments: Appears to be a viable program.

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: Aircraft Structural Technology Certificate

College or School: School of Aviation

Department: Aviation Maintenance and Structural Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: Spring 2020

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):
The program met institutional criteria.

Current Date: 06/02/2025

Executive Summary: This program has seen a 25% five-year enrollment growth. While the graduation rates have not reflected the enrollment growth, the department has been working on different job placement opportunities to stabilize the enrollment to aid with graduation and retention rates. The AST program has been part of multiple research projects, and these projects have helped increase the visibility of the program. It is recommended that this program be retained.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program. *Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in this section.*

X Program MEETS Institution's Criteria (also indicate 1 subcategory below)

- ☐ Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
- X Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Required statement of plans for action: This program will be retained as it requires no additional funding for equipment or personnel. It will be continuously reviewed and in the event this program requires any additional funding, it will be reviewed and potentially terminated.

☐ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria (also indicate 1 subcategory below)

- ☐ Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
- ☐ Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- ☐ Program will be deactivated.
- ☐ Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- ☐ Other (identify/add text):

Required statement of plans for action:_____

Academic Dean Signature:

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date: 06/02/2025