

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot

MEDICAL GUIDELINES



A significant pre-requisite to entering the Lake Area Technical College Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot program is a 2nd Class FAA Medical. **NOTE:** If possible, it is recommended to get a 1st Class Medical. If the student chooses to get a 2nd Class Medical, inquire with the Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) if there are any conditions they observe that would prevent a 1st Class Medical.

The 3 Classes of Medical Certificates:

1st Class: Required to fly with an airline.*

*RECOMMENDED: Most employers require a 1st Class Medical and even if the student doesn't want a job that requires a 1st Class, we suggest keeping options open for the future.

2nd Class: Required (at minimum) to get paid to fly.

3rd Class: Required to fly recreationally and cannot be paid to fly.

- **IMPORTANT:** Because students are in the beginning phase of a high-cost training program to become a commercial pilot, it is necessary to know **NOW** if a 1st or 2nd Class Medical can be passed. The college and the pilot program does not want students to go through Private Pilot and Instrument training only to be denied a medical when approaching the commercial training at the beginning of the second year of the program.

STEPS TO OBTAINING A FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL:

1. Find an AME and make an appointment before classes begin. Go to <https://designee.faa.gov/designeeLocator>
2. Create a MedXpress account and complete the required information before the appointment. Go to <https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/login.aspx>

South Dakota AME's (AME's are available in any state):

- Dr. Kruse – Avera - Brookings, SD (605) 697-9500
- Dr. Bien – Avera - Brookings, SD (605) 697-9500
- Dr. Bjordahl – Avera - Milbank, SD (605) 432-4587
- Dr. Huntington – CFM - Sioux Falls, SD (605) 339-1783
- Dr. Martin – CNOS - Dakota Dunes, SD (605) 217-2667
- Dr. Ptacek – Monument Health - Sturgis, SD (605) 720-2600

If a student wears corrective lenses, it is recommended to schedule an eye exam in the 90 days prior to getting the medical. Take the FAA Form 8500-7 (link below) to the eye appointment to be completed by the eye specialist and bring the completed form to the scheduled appointment with the Aviation Medical Examiner. If the student has had any eye surgery in the preceding two years, a waiver will need to be provided from the eye specialist to the Aviation Medical Examiner.

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA_Form_8500-7_Exp_10.31.24.pdf

For additional questions contact:

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