**Air Carrier Enhanced Pilot Training Program (ACE) program**

The Air Carrier Enhanced Pilot Training Program (ACE) is a program that has been introduced by the Regional Airline Association to provide an alternate path way to the regional airlines for pilots. According to the Regional Airline Association, “the Regional Airline Association's Air Carrier Enhanced Pilot Training Program (ACE) envisions a new, alternative path to the Restricted Air Transport Pilot certificate (R-ATP) and is proposed to stand alongside existing R-ATP pathways established by the FAA. Like the existing pathways, the ACE program would allow credit for specialized training that meets the tough standards intended by Congress.”

Further, “The ACE program is an airline-delivered alternate pathway and contains substantial enhancements that reach a higher level of safety than current flight training pathways. It provides a comprehensive, structured and disciplined training system, with scenario-based and qualitative training enhancements, and offers a meaningful and quantifiable measure of experience for pilot training.”

<http://www.raa.org/news/264443/>

The University Aviation Association (UAA) represents member institutions with flight training programs, with many of these flight students desiring to enter the airline industry as first officers at regional airlines. The “1,500 Rule” and reduced hour requirements for Part 141 programs offering the R-ATP, are reality for our member institutions. While the increased hour requirements have delayed graduate transition to the airlines, it has also allowed these graduates to remain as a flight instructor for a longer period of time. The UAA is encouraged by efforts of the RAA and their member airlines to enable alternate pathways for our students to enter the airline industry as First Officers.

According to Dr. Suzanne Kearns, President of the UAA, “The aviation industry, on a global scale, is moving away from measuring pilot skill as being directly linked to their hours of flight experience. This traditional methodology is evolving into competency-based education, where new training approaches and technologies can be capitalized upon to specifically target development of key competencies within pilot trainees. It is fundamentally acknowledged that it is not hours-themselves that produce learning, but the instructional content and methods employed during those hours. Competency-based approaches, that measure training success by the achievement of outcomes rather than hours, allow organizations to develop flexible training curricula that target the needs and capabilities of individual learners – improving the effectiveness of instruction.”

--

The University Aviation Association (UAA) is the voice of collegiate aviation to its members, the industry, government and the general public. Through the collective expertise of its members, this nonprofit organization plays a pivotal role in the advancement of degree-granting aviation programs that represent all segments of aviation. Today, UAA has more than 525 members, including 105 accredited colleges and universities. The organization and its members are poised to meet the ever-changing needs of the aviation industry and address the challenges of the 21st century.