

## Online Aviation Master's Degree

Bryan T. Harrison

Associate Professor

Department of Aviation Management and Flight

Southern Illinois University

### **Abstract**

A three-phase study was completed including: a review of peer institution online graduate programs, soliciting SIU aviation alumni feedback, and SIU aviation faculty feedback.

Online aviation graduate programs at seven prominent universities including: Embry-Riddle World Wide (ERAU), Purdue, Oklahoma State, University of North Dakota (UND), Lewis, St. Louis University, and Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Nine separate degree programs including 15 different degree paths are available to students at these seven institutions. These degree programs were chosen due to similarity to SIU's current undergraduate aviation programs. A wide variety of course subjects are offered with no clear standard of what a non-engineering aviation graduate degree should include. The lack of a clear content standard for an aviation master's degree requirements may be related to institutional focus and history as well as faculty capabilities and specializations.

A survey was sent via Survey Monkey to 528 SIU AF, AVT, and AVM alumni who graduated since 2013. Survey responses were thematically coded to identify alumni desires for an aviation master's degree.