

# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT

The Ohio State University Airport serves as a hub to regional industry members, a learning lab for future aviation professionals and a core facility for university research. Since 1942 it has grown to be a nationally recognized leading general aviation facility.

## REGIONAL HUB FOR INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Ohio State University Airport (KOSU) has distinguished itself as central Ohio's premier executive airport. A full-service terminal offers incredible pilot, crew and customer amenities, while on-site aircraft maintenance provides full fly-in service. Tenants expert in aircraft detailing partner with the airport to offer high-quality service to customers.

A gateway serving the global aviation industry, KOSU is among the top-five busiest airports in Ohio. Three runways and a control tower support over 80,000 aircraft operations annually. Located in a rapidly growing metropolitan area home to five Fortune 500 and 15 Fortune 1000 companies, Ohio State's airport regularly provides easy access and attentive service to 200+ tenants and corporate partners. The airport's economic impact is an estimated \$157 million in direct and indirect benefits to central Ohio.

## LEARNING LAB

As one of three airports owned by top-tier research universities nationwide, KOSU supports the development of future aviation professionals in a variety of career paths. It is the primary teaching and research nucleus serving the university's Center for Aviation Studies (CAS) and engages with other units throughout the university. Learn more about CAS: [aviation.osu.edu](http://aviation.osu.edu).

Each semester 300+ students participate in labs or coursework at the airport, utilizing its fleet of 20 aircraft, flight simulators, air traffic control tower, weather station, and communications and navigation systems. In the flight education program, over 100 students annually earn pilot certificates. Students also perform critical roles across the airport, learning on-the-job skills in line service, customer service, aircraft maintenance and more. Alumni are found throughout the international aviation industry.

The airport provides points of engagement to the university's six aviation student organizations. In addition, over 2,000 youth and community members participate in airport-based outreach activities annually.



## CORE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Ohio State's airport enhances the future of aviation by supporting research and development. Interdisciplinary projects span general aviation safety, experimental aircraft, aviation accident investigation, weather instrumentation, runway improvements and public safety training.

An early adopter of unmanned aerospace systems, KOSU is a Federal Aviation Administration-certified operations site for drones. The airport utilizes drones for wildlife management and daily FAA-required airfield inspections. Unmanned aerospace systems are also used to support required fire safety trainings, on-site construction and accident response.

The university's world-renowned Aerospace Research Center (ARC) is located on the airport's campus. ARC focuses the university's aerospace activities to address current and future air transportation challenges. The multi-laboratory team performs a wide range of aerospace research projects, including in the areas of unmanned aerospace systems, aerodynamic flow control and gas turbines. The center's unique position allows for the facilitation of collaborations between academia, industry and other organizations. Learn more: [arc.osu.edu](http://arc.osu.edu).



## OHIO STATE'S AVIATION HISTORY

Just 14 years after the Wright brothers' first flight, the Ohio State School of Aeronautics opened on May 12, 1917. The program's 16 cadets built aircraft in the aeronautics building, located at the southeast corner of West 19th Avenue and Neil Avenue. To take flight, planes were rolled down the hill to the field just east of the Olentangy River. This arrangement was cut short when Ohio Stadium opened in 1922.

In June 1942, the university purchased property for the development of an airport in support of its pilot training program. The facility, which is still the location of The Ohio State University Airport, was then on the outskirts of Columbus, seven miles north of campus. The first plane landed at the new airport on November 5, 1942. Two buildings were constructed in the spring of 1943, and two 2,200-foot, hard-surfaced runways, taxiways and aprons were added in early 1944. Trustees named the new airport Don Scott Field, in honor of Ohio State's former All-American athlete, who died in a bomber crash in England during World War II.

## CONTACTS

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## EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, the airport's \$15 million Austin E. Knowlton Executive Terminal & Aviation Learning Center opened its doors. Its immediate success is noted in an increase in student enrollment in the flight education program and glowing feedback from customers, tenants and industry members partaking of the airport's expanded services.

Now, implementation of the next phase of the airport's master plan is underway. Construction has begun on a 50-acre corporate airpark, featuring build-to-suit private hangars with easy airfield access. Planned runway enhancements will provide industry partners and charter travelers with greater access to global destinations. Sites dedicated to aviation manufacturing and service providers are being identified for development on the airport's campus.

Within 600 miles of approximately 50% of the United States population and surrounded by a vibrant local economy with a growing population, The Ohio State University Airport is set to continue to be an integral element of central Ohio's progress.

## LOCAL AVIATION RESOURCE

Partners and tenants located on the KOSU campus enhance the aviation community. Those include four independent flight schools, Ohio Department of Transportation aviation headquarters, MedFlight air ambulance, Columbus Division of Fire and many local and national aviation clubs.