# Transition from PTS to ACS at Liberty University "How Goz'It Panel Discussion"

**Bob Hudson**
**2017 AABI Conference**
**Kalamazoo, Michigan**

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

Introduction

Liberty University Involvement in Project

Summary of Internal Survey

Summary of AVIA 315 Papers

Conclusion

# Thanks to Aviation Community Partners!

## Current and Past Aviation Community Participants

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AOPA | CAPA | King Schools | Redbird Simulations |
| Airlines for America (A4A) | ERAU | Liberty University | RACCA |
| ALPA | FAA | Mary Schu Aviation | Robert Stewart, CFI |
| AnywhereEducation Inc. | FedEx Express | NATA | Savvy Aircraft Maintenance |
| AABI | Flight Safety International | NAFI | Satcom Direct (Mariellen Couppee) |
| Aviation Research Training & Services | GAMA | NBAA | SAFE |
| ASA | Gleim | Navy Technologies | Sportys Academy |
| ATEC | Florida Institute of Technology | Oxford Flying Club | UAA |
| CAE | Florida State College | Paul Alp, CFI | UND |
| Cessna Pilot Centers | Jeppesen | Polk State College | |

THANK YOU

**Federal Aviation Administration**

30

3

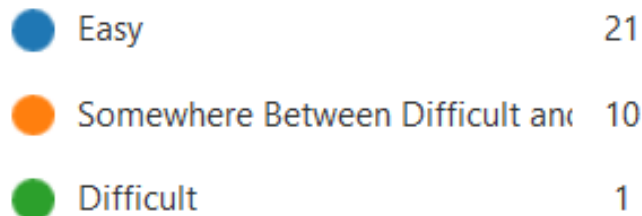# *Liberty University's Contribution*

- Professor Kurt Reesman (LU 2005-2013)
- Concerned about FOI Failures in 2010
- Reached out to FAA in OKC
- Invited to participate in the Airman Testing, Standards, & Training Working Group
- Discovered the process of developing and using new questions was flawed
- Several new questions were discarded or put on "probation"
- Invited to be a part of the Aviation Rulemaking Advising Committee (ARAC) to develop new Airman Certification Standards.

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

# *Internal Survey/Questionnaire*

- 11 Question Survey/Questionnaire about the New Standards
- 32 Anonymous Respondents
- Here are the results….

**LIBERTY**
U N I V E R S I T Y.

1. How would you describe the transition from PTS to ACS?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 | Easy | 21 |
| 🟠 | Somewhere Between Difficult an | 10 |
| 🟢 | Difficult | 1 |

2. Have you reviewed the ACS in detail for the courses you teach?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 Yes | 25 | |
| 🟠 No | 7 | |

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

3. Have you reviewed the FAA's ACS Briefing Guide, which explains how to use the ACS effectively? This is available at https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/

Details



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 | Yes | 19 |
| 🟠 | No | 13 |

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

4. Have you watched a Webinar on the use of ACS, such as the one available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uTXkiahw2k?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ● No | 25 | |
| ● Yes | 7 | |

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

9

5. Have you reviewed the Appendices in the back of the ACS document?



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 | Yes | 21 |
| 🟠 | No | 11 |

6. Do you understand the ACS coding system and how to use the codes?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 Yes | | 21 |
| 🟠 No | | 11 |

7. Do you understand how the FAA examiner will use the ACS to conduct the practical test?

Details

| | Yes | 26 |
| | Not Certain | 6 |
| | No | 0 |

LIBERTY
U N I V E R S I T Y™

8. Do the ACS codes help you in developing a remedial training plan for your students who miss questions on the FAA Knowledge Test?

Details

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 🔵 Yes | | 23 |
| 🟠 No | | 9 |

9. Please rate your student's response/feedback to the new Airman Certification Standards. (1 Star represents a negative response and five stars represents the most positive response.)

Details

30 Responses

★★★⯪★

3.33 Average Rating

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

Question 10: If you could change anything about the ACS publication/system, what would it be? (Feel free to describe any aspect of the ACS that you do not like or that you think could be improved.)

Here is a summary of some of the noteworthy responses…..

*"The ACS codes do not help in a remedial training plan because the current knowledge test does not reflect the ACS codes, but rather the old testing codes.  Until the systems outside the ACS catch up, the ACS cannot be used to its full effectiveness."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

*"In the revision this year, the ACS codes changed.  For example, on the first task in the Instrument Rating ACS, the knowledge codes changed so that the same code from a year ago does not correspond with the current code. For example: ….."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

*"The applicant demonstrates understanding of:*

**_From the original ACS:_**

*IR.I.A.K1 1. When an instrument rating is required.*

*IR.I.A.K2 2. Recent instrument flight experience requirements.*

**_From the new ACS:_**

*IR.I.A.K1 1. Certification requirements, recency of experience, and record keeping.*

*IR.I.A.K2 2. Privileges and limitations.*

*These differences between versions defeat the purpose of having a codified system of codes."*

*"Make the printed publication of the ACS smaller in size."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

*"The increase of speed in slow flight is something I do not agree with. I understand the importance of recognizing and recovering promptly at the first indication of a stall, but I also think it is important for students to be able to demonstrate control of the aircraft at the minimum speed."*

*"I'm not sure how this new coding helps with the knowledge test review as the test still uses a PLT code. Why not match the coding across both items?"*

This is a common critique of the ACS system shared verbally….

Question 11: What do you like most about the new Airman Certification Standards?

Here is a summary of some of the noteworthy responses…..

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

*"Being able to link the knowledge areas to specific reference materials."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

*"I like the detail of the breakdown of each task.  I believe it allows for better understanding of where a student may be deficient or where training was missed."*

*"I like that they tie the knowledge questions from written exams into the ACS so as to aid us instructors in understanding gaps and holes in our students' learning experience."*

# LIBERTY
## UNIVERSITY.

*"I like the increased focus on risk management, and that this is integrated into each task."*

LIBERTY
U N I V E R S I T Y™

*"I like how it includes all areas of flying into the testing. Not only must the student do the maneuver correctly but ADM and safety are a part of how they must perform the maneuver."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

*"Much more detail and clarification regarding expectations.  In combination with the new Airplane Flying Handbook, pilots in training can gain a good understanding of how to accomplish most tasks."*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

# Commercial Student Paper Results

- *20 AVIA 315 Papers Sampled*

- *Students with Private & Instrument Rating*

- *Assigned to Watch the 2016 ACS Great Debate at the Aviation Expo in Palm Springs, California and to Conduct Related Research*

- *This is a summary of major points of those who clearly articulated their personal opinion about the topic:…*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

# *Commercial Student Paper Results*

- *Favorability towards ACS, but several students expressed concern about the complexity & potential increase in cost for longer oral exams and check rides*

- *Some students okay with longer oral if it helps them become better pilots*

- *Many agreed with the need to include risk management in testing (Viewed as critically important to primary training)*

# *Commercial Student Paper Results*

- *Most understand the rationale of changing the Slow Flight standard, but several stated that students should learn to maneuver at minimum speed in the region of reverse command*

- *ACS far superior to PTS because it includes risk management elements*

- *ACS focuses more on Practical Knowledge vs. Book Knowledge*

# *Commercial Student Paper Results*

- *Managing risk is as important or more important than learning flight skills*

- *Many believe ACS will improve safety by focusing on Risk Management*

- *Principles of NDB navigation should not have been removed because it is still in use in U.S. and abroad*

# *Commercial Student Paper Results*

- *ACS is appropriate because skills and risk management are intertwined.*

- *Concern that ACS requires beginner pilots to be aviation experts too early*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™

- *Much anecdotal evidence in support of ACS and indications that transition has been smooth & uneventful*

- *General understanding that the intent of the new ACS is to reduce aviation accidents*

- *Many indicate an acceptance of the new standards but are eager for the Written Exam Codes to Align with New Standards*

- *Next determinant will be to query LU's DPEs about effects of ACS on Pass Rates and Length of Practical Tests*

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL *of* AERONAUTICS

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY™