

COMPOSITE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (CSET) COURSE

CSET-A: MAR 9 - APR 19, 2026
CSET-B: APR 20 - MAY 31, 2026



Learn the framework for substantiation of composite aircraft structure!

CSET is comprised of two modules: CSET-A and CSET-B together provide an overview of essential engineering practices and knowledge for certification of aircraft structures. Topics are described through downloadable files, followed by on-line discussions. You will learn through discussions, allowing you to interact with other professionals, expert structural engineers from industry, and the FAA. An optional hands-on laboratory is also offered to practice principles of engineering, manufacturing, and maintenance of composite structures.

The course is offered in two 6-week modules. CSET-A describes Composite Applications, Materials and Processing, Fabrication Development, and Design. CSET-B content continues with Structural Substantiation, Manufacturing and Maintenance, followed by other additional topics. CSET-A is a prerequisite for CSET-B. Upon successfully meeting course requirements for CSET-A and CSET-B you will receive a certificate of completion for each module.



WICHITA STATE
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ABOUT THE COURSE

This course covers the essential topics pertaining to composites engineering and the certification process. Its contents provide students with an awareness of the composites engineering process framework through course materials and practical applications through online discussions. Topics include engineering, manufacturing, maintenance, and certification of composite materials associated with civil aircraft structures. The course content is in accordance with FAA AC 20-107B (Composite Aircraft Structure). CSET-A is prerequisite to CSET-B, with each course 6 weeks in length.

This course was developed through the collaboration of Wichita State University, industry subject matter experts, and the Federal Aviation Administration. The course is taught online, includes all teaching materials, and features real-world discussions facilitated by those with subject matter expertise and FAA representatives. Depending on prior knowledge, experience, and level of student involvement, attendees typically spend six or more hours per week, reviewing materials, participating in online discussions, and testing their knowledge.

After finishing a 1-week period of self-study of fundamental composites and successfully completing an examination in CSET-A, students proceed to more advanced topics through an on-line, interactive learning experience via Blackboard for the next five weeks. The six-week module, CSET-B, follows CSET-A in a similar teaching format. Students may take CSET-B immediately after CSET-A, or as an option, delay CSET-B enrollment until a later offering for schedule flexibility. Teaching methodology includes online discussions facilitated by subject matter experts, content in PowerPoint slides available for download, and audio/visual aids. As an asynchronous learning process, the schedule is flexible, with students determining their time schedule and participating at their convenience during each week of class.

Course Objective

- Students will describe engineering principles for substantiating composite airframe structures during all stages of aircraft product certification.

Who Should Attend?

- Professionals responsible for the engineering of composites.
- Individuals having a general background in composites and/or engineering technology.
- Civil aviation regulatory authorities and industry delegates who participate in the certification of composite structures.

Prerequisite

Students will review summary reading material on basic composite technology during the first week of the online class, followed by an assessment to measure students understanding of prerequisite content. After successfully completing the online assessment, students are given access to the CSET-A course.

Course Topics include:

- Composite Applications
- Material, Processing, and Fabrication Development
- Design Development
- Structural Substantiation
- Manufacturing and Maintenance Interface
- Additional Topics: Flutter, Crashworthiness, Fire Safety and Lightning Protection

DATES

CSET-A: March 09 - April 19, 2026

CSET-B: April 20 - May 31, 2026

FEES

Tuition per student is \$950.00 for each online module. The optional hands-on laboratory will be an additional fee. Registration is limited to 24 individuals and will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Course materials are included with tuition.

You may register and pay on-line at www.wichita.edu/cset.

As space is limited, register quickly to reserve your spot!

If the class fills prior to registering, students are placed on a waiting list for possible future classes.

Cancellations and Refunds:

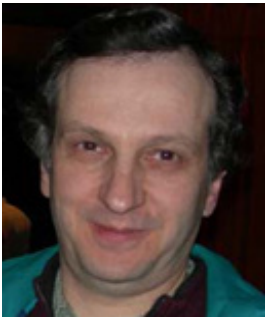
All cancellations must be made in writing. A 15% administrative fee will be assessed on all cancellations (this includes purchase orders). There will be no refunds for CSET-A after February 27, 2026, or for CSET-B after April 10, 2026. WSU reserves the right to cancel the program due to lack of enrollment. In that event, WSU will refund any pre-paid course fees but will not be responsible for any incidental or consequential damages.

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS



Charles Seaton

Charles Seaton has over 30 years of experience with various aerospace businesses involving aircraft design, manufacturing and maintenance, education and aircraft modification. He has led and consulted in global education initiatives which promote safe practices with composite materials in aerospace and other industries. He has taught and developed curricula with international composite experts and educators in the field of composite technology, repair and engineering for over ten years.



Christos Kassapoglou

Christos Kassapoglou worked at Beech Aircraft (1984-1987) heading the analysis effort for the certification of the all-composite Starship I. He joined the Structures Research group of Sikorsky Aircraft (1987-2001) where he worked on the development of analysis methods focusing on damage tolerance of composites and weight and cost optimization of composite airframe structures. Since 2001, he has been consulting with various US and European companies on design and analysis of composite structures and worked (until 2016) as an Associate Professor at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. In 2017, he joined Lockheed

Martin. He has over 70 publications in scholarly journals on composites analysis and design, cost-weight tradeoffs of composite structures, damage tolerance and fatigue of composites. Two books: (1) Design and Analysis of Composite Structures, 2nd Edition, Wiley, 2013, Modeling the Effect of Damage in Composite Structures, Wiley, 2015, and a book chapter, "Structural Design – Tradeoffs" in Encyclopedia of Aerospace Engineering, eds R. Blockley and W. Shyy, John Wiley: Chichester. 2012.

Course development was supported by FAA and industry engineers, bringing decades of experience in both regulatory and engineering practice to the course development. In addition to the above instructors, FAA representatives will participate in online discussions whenever aviation regulations, guidance or policy questions arise.

Cindy Ashforth, *Senior Technical Specialist for Composites, FAA Aircraft Certification Service, Policy and Innovation Division*

Ms. Ashforth has over 25 years' experience testing and certifying composite structures, as both a certification manager and composite materials specialist. As one of the FAA's subject matter experts for advanced composite materials, she provides technical advice on rule making activities, writes guidance documents, develops, and delivers educational materials, and assists in certification projects and continued operational safety activities related to composite applications.

Dr. Larry Ilcewicz, *FAA Chief Scientific and Technical Advisor (CSTA) for Composite Materials*

Mr. Ilcewicz started work with the FAA in 1998. Since joining the FAA, he has supported many small airplane, rotorcraft, and transport aircraft certification programs. He has also worked on accident investigations and service problems involving composites. These experiences helped develop an international plan for composite safety and certification initiatives called the FAA Aviation Safety Composite Plan.

Angie Kostopoulos, Aerospace Engineer, Composite Technical Specialist, FAA Policy and Innovation Division

Ms. Kostopoulos has over 25 years' experience certifying Part 23 aircraft composite structures, as both a certification Program manager and composite Technical specialist. As one of the FAA's Composite Technical Specialist, she supports certification projects and continued operational safety activities related to composite structures for small aircraft/jets as well as rotorcraft. She also provides input and assists with the development of guidance and policy using her certification experience with the various composite Type certification projects and delivers educational materials.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- ➔ *I wish I had this education years ago, as it has definitely reinforced the protocols that I have picked up along the way. For a new designer in the aerospace field, this would be a great tool to shorten the learning curve. (E.B., Stress Engineer)*
- ➔ *I thought the structure of the class and the combination of presentations, exams, and forum discussions was outstanding for an online course. I thought it was very well implemented and would definitely consider a similar course in the future. (P.T., Stress Analyst (design, testing, and certification of CFRP horizontal stabilizer skins))*
- ➔ *There's so much FAA and industry guidance on composites, that having it all distilled into a course like CSET allowed me to write a clear certification methodology in just a few weeks. (G.S., Consultant Structures DER and ODA Unit Member)*
- ➔ *The instructors encouraged the participants' interaction by asking questions and did provide a lot of information from their experiences that is not included in the course contents. (L.S., Research and Development Engineer)*
- ➔ *It's the best course on the market for airworthiness authority delegates who want to have a more in-depth understanding of the particularities in certification and continuing airworthiness of commercial aircraft with primary composites structures. This is the perfect course for new delegates or experienced delegates in metallic structures to understand what is so particular with composites structures certification. (M.C., Head of Stress and M&P, In-Service Engineering – TCCA)*

Special Accommodations

Wichita State University is committed to making programs available to people with disabilities. If you wish to volunteer information regarding any special assistance you may need, please contact the Office of University Conferences at (316) 978-6493.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age (40 years or older), ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Institutional Equity and Compliance Director, Title IX Coordinator or Equal Opportunity Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, telephone (316) 978-3187.