Dear Incoming Students,

I am excited about all the movement in the industry and job opportunities for our students. Our program is unique in many ways and helps prepare our students for whatever job they seek in aviation. One unique aspect of the Westminster program is the use of Learner-Centered Grading (LCG).

In aviation flight training, a teacher-centered type debriefing style has been typically used where only the instructor grades the student at the end of each lesson. Learner-centered grading (LCG) is a student centered evaluation method that can be used by both the instructor and the student to determine the student’s level of knowledge and understanding. This also allows students to self evaluate and more easily make the appropriate changes to improve their flying. Students are active participants in the debriefing process!

On a typical day at the flight operations center at Westminster College a student returns from the flight lesson and will sit down to meet with their flight instructor to de-brief. As the student pilot, you will begin by evaluating yourself on your performance for the day, your flight instructor will also grade you on the lesson after you have shared your thoughts. As you compare notes you and your instructor come up with a great ways for improvement for the next lesson.

Another unique aspect of Learner-Centered Grading is the grading scale that is utilized. It is not your typical one-through-five scale, one meaning excellent, five meaning a failure. It is an absolute grading scale that allows you to progress and accurately describe what level of learning you are achieving. For example, you start out being able to “describe” the maneuver or task, you then move on to being able to “explain” the maneuver in more detail, etc. This scale is much more descriptive of your actual performance and each level has the instructor assistance decreasing slowly until you have reached the “perform” level when you are ready for your check ride!

Each aspect of our program has been carefully and thoughtfully implemented including the use of learner-centered grading. At Westminster we can help you reach your aviation goals and utilize student-centered training. I look forward seeing you at Westminster!

Sincerely,

Julie Paasch, M.Ed., MCFI
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