

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INNOVATION

Start: August 2025

Finish: June 2026

Budget: \$0

Actual YTD: \$0



Aviation

First in SC! Will enroll up to 100 students by Year 5 and potential to recruit out of state. Will be a signature program: WU is the only SC university close to a major city, airport, and airline hub!



Health Sciences

#1 area of study for SC high school students. Potential to enroll hundreds of students. Interdisciplinary program with minimal new funds needed to get started.



Adv. Manu. Engineering

Engineering is the #2 top area of study for SC students. No four-year engineering in our region; ties to economic development. No “Advanced Manufacturing Engineering” in SC. WU is uniquely positioned to offer this due to existing AI, Cyber, etc. degrees.

RISK/MITIGATION

Failure to secure approvals and reach milestones could delay the start of these programs. Target launch dates: Fall 2026 for Aviation and Health Sciences; Fall 2027 for Advanced Manufacturing Engineering. Failure to secure external support for Engineering will delay its launch. Failure with the Flight School FAA, DoE, and CHE processes will delay the Aviation launch to Fall 2027. To mitigate these issues, the Provost will work directly with the relevant constituencies on all three initiatives each step of the way.

Q2 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences approved by Faculty Conference and Trustees.
- ✓ FAA Part 141 submitted; approval for Aviation was unfortunately delayed due to the historically long government shutdown, which could delay enrolling students.
- ✓ Aviation Coordinator hired – a part time appointment of the ACES Assistant Chief Flight Instructor to ensure collaboration.
- ✓ Some financial commitments for engineering tentatively secured, but not ready for public announcement.

Q3 OBJECTIVES

- Health Sciences: gain SC CHE ACAP approval (step 1 of 3).
- Engineering: secure enough financial support to justify moving forward and make announcement.
- Aviation: Secure FAA Part 141 credential for ACES Flight School, gain CO for hanger, produce promotional video and website, and make regional presentation at professional meeting.

Status:

Lead: Sebastian van Delden

Pillars: Educate

Date: 01/09/2026

DESCRIPTION

Since 2022, Winthrop has been actively engaged in curriculum development.

This year, we will track three strategic initiatives: Bachelor of Science degree programs in Health Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering, and Aviation and Business Management.

