

ASEN 2519 (Special Topics): Take Flight – Launching Your Career Course Syllabus, Fall 2026

Course Information

- Course Title: Take Flight – Launching Your Career
- Course Code: ASEN 2519 (Special Topics)
- Credit Hours: 1.0
- Term: Fall 2026
- Day/Time: Thursdays from 4:05-4:55 pm
- Location: AERO N240
- Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Ennico Smith

Course Overview

Provides students with tools and guidance to prepare for a successful career during and after their undergraduate experience. Topics include professionalism, ethics, career pathways, and career preparation (networking, applying, interviewing, classified jobs considerations, on-campus resources).

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Professionalism & Ethics: Learn the standards and principles that will guide your career.
- Career Pathways: Explore various career options within the aerospace industry.
- Career Preparation: Master the skills of networking, applying, and interviewing.
- Classified Jobs Considerations: Understand the unique aspects of working in classified environments.
- On-Campus Resources: Discover the resources available to support your career journey.

Required Texts & Materials

- Textbook: None
- Additional Readings: Selected articles from aerospace industry-relevant news sources
- Supplies: No special supplies required

Grading and Assessment

- Most of your grade **will be based on attendance**, as measured by in-class sign-in.
- There are **no remote-participation** options for lecture attendance.
- Any absence from a given lecture **must be communicated to me via email prior to the start of that lecture** and acknowledged by me to be **considered an excused absence**.
 - You may miss, **via an excused absence, up to 3 lectures** without impact to your attendance grade. Missing more than 3 lectures will impact your attendance grade (see details below).

- If you need to miss a lecture due to family/medical emergency or due to university sanctioned events, the lecture you miss **must be one of the three lectures** you are allowed to miss without impact to your grade.
- If you miss a lecture **without** communicating it to me via email prior to the start of the lecture, your course grade will be decremented by 5%.
- Late Work: **Late submissions will receive a penalty of 2% per day**, unless prior arrangements are made.
- Students must verify all scores and grades on Canvas within 1 week after they are posted; requests to change a score need to be made within this period.

Grading Breakdown

- **Attendance: 50%**
 - Each excused absence greater than 3 will decrement course grade by 5%.
 - Each non-excused absence will decrement course grade by 5%.
- **Assignments: 40%** (4 at 10%)
- **Final Assignment – Course Reflection Paper: 10%**
- Grading Scale:
 - A: 90-100%
 - B: 80-89%
 - C: 70-79%
 - D: 60-69%
 - F: Below 60%

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments	% Grade
		Class Attendance	Sign-In Sheet	50%
1	20 Aug 2026	Introductions Syllabus Review About Aerospace in CO / Smead AES	Syllabus Wk1: Beginning of Course Survey	Survey is voluntary
2	27 Aug 2026	How to Succeed in AES and your aerospace career		
3	03 Sep 2026	Contemporary Issues in Aerospace	Wk3: Future Alignment / Goal-Setting Exercise	10%
4	10 Sep 2026	Application Process: Search, Apply, Interview		
5	17 Sep 2026	Emotional Resilience in the Job Search (Guest Lecture)	Wk5: Accomplishment through Resilience Essay	10%
6	24 Sep 2026	CU Engineering Career Hub and other career resources at CU (Guest Lecture)		

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments	% Grade
7	01 Oct 2026	Application Mechanics: Resumes, Cover Letters, Interviewing	Wk7: Career Portfolio	10%
--	08 Oct 2026	Midsemester Reading Day (No Lecture)		
8	15 Oct 2026	CAREER FAIR TUES/WED/THUR (No Lecture)	Wk8: Career Fair Prep/Proof Attendance	10%
9	22 Oct 2026	Pathways: Careers in Academia (Guest Lecture)		
10	29 Oct 2026	Pathways: Careers in Industry (Guest Lecture) / Contrast to Public Service		
11	05 Nov 2026	Engineering Ethics (Guest Lecture)	Final Assignment: Course Reflection Paper	10%
12	12 Nov 2026	Pathways: Cleared Job Considerations (Guest Lecture)		
13	19 Nov 2026	AI Career Playbook: The Algorithmic Aerospace Hire: Navigating AI in Modern Engineering Job Hunting		
--	26 Nov 2026	FALL BREAK (No Lecture)		
14	03 Dec 2026	Recap / Navigating Teams, Leadership, and Group Dynamics	Wk14: End of Course Survey	Survey is voluntary
Finals Week	07 Dec 2026 (by 11:59 PM MST)	Final Assignment Due		

Important Notes

- Attendance & Participation: Regular attendance and participation are expected. See above how absences will affect your grade.
- Email Contact: **To ensure that your emails are read, please include ‘ASEN 2519’ in the subject line of any emails you send to me regarding this course.**
- Please note in case of a medical/family emergency, you should contact the office of Student Support and Case Management here: <https://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/sscm>. They will help you coordinate across ALL your courses and can put you in touch with a number of campus resources.
- I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule/topics and/or assignments (e.g., homework) based on events that require different dispositions. I will give sufficient advance notice through announcements in class and via Canvas.
- Please check the Canvas site regularly as important announcements are posted on this website.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

Generative artificial intelligence (gen AI) tools – software that reproduces text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content – have become widely available. Well-known examples

include ChatGPT for text and DALL•E for images. This statement governs all such tools, including those released during our semester together.

Keep in mind that the goal of gen AI tools is to reproduce content that *seems to have been produced by a human*, not to produce accurate or reliable content; therefore, relying on a gen AI tool may result in your submission of inaccurate content. **It is your responsibility** – not the tool's – **to assure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of work you submit in any college course.**

If gen AI tool use is suspected in completing assignments for this course in ways not explicitly authorized, I will follow up with you. I may contact the [Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution](#) to report suspected [Honor Code](#) violations. In addition, you must be wary of unintentional plagiarism or data fabrication. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

Final thoughts on AI usage for written work for this class: You may use Generative AI tools (like ChatGPT) for early-stage brainstorming, outlining, or editing your own draft. **However, the final written deliverable must reflect your own voice, insights, and personal reflections.** The greatest superhuman power we all have in an AI world is storytelling, telling the stories that are unique to us. When we hand that power over entirely to AI, we will lose our true voice. You are fully responsible for the accuracy of all content. If you use AI to assist your process, you must include a short statement at the end of your essay (not included in the word count) describing which tool you used and how it helped you. Examples on how to do this are shown in the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). If you do not disclose how you used tools and your submitted work appears to be AI generated, I will follow up with you.

Changes to Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as needed. Any changes will be communicated in class and via Canvas.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment.

Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please contact the instructional team.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It](#) page.

Religious Accommodations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Health and Wellness Services

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health, or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

Emergency Procedures

In case of an emergency, follow campus safety protocols, which can be found at [Campus Safety Resources](#).