



AUBURN UNIVERSITY REGIONAL AIRPORT

Airport / Aircraft Noise Frequently Asked Questions

How does the airport determine which runway to use?

Wind direction determines which runway will be active. Aircraft will take off and land into the wind for safety purposes. The wind helps slow the aircraft's ground speed on approach and landing, making it easier to control and reduces the landing roll distance. On takeoff, wind helps pilots attain flying speed more quickly, which allows pilots to clear obstacles and attain a higher altitude before passing over populated areas.

What is the minimum altitude for airplanes and helicopters?

The minimum altitude for airplanes is 1,000 feet above a populated area unless the aircraft is ascending after takeoff or descending on approach to an airport. There are a few exceptions which may operate at a somewhat lower altitude with special exemption from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Helicopters are exempt from this federal regulation.

Can the airport change plane routes?

No. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the flight paths and aircraft routing into and out of every airport. Airports do not control air traffic.

Why can't the airport be closed at night?

The Auburn University Regional Airport cannot place operating restrictions that are contrary to the Federal Aviation Administration National Airports System Plan (NPIAS). FAA regulations prohibit the airport from instituting a curfew. Additionally, flight training requires that pilots obtain a minimum number of night flight hours. The Auburn University School of Aviation students are required to complete these hours for their coursework and flight ratings.

Can the airport tell some aircraft to use another airport?

In short, no. There are federal laws that pertain to what is considered discrimination by the FAA, which prohibits an airport from arbitrarily deciding that some aircraft may land and others may not. Airports are public transportation facilities, like the interstate highway system, and aircraft are entitled to use any public airport at which they can safely land. This does not include aircraft that exceed the 75,000-pound weight limit of the primary airport runway.

There was a pilot flying very dangerously, can I report them?

If you witness an aircraft flying in an unsafe manner requiring immediate attention, you should contact the FAA Aviation Safety Hotline at 1-800-255-1111.