

AELO Swiss Academy has positioned itself in Switzerland as a commercial airline pilot training organization, established in 1985. It operates as an Approved Training Organization with approval number CH.ATO.0311, and it runs training from its main base at Locarno Airport in Gordola, with a satellite base at Lugano Airport in Agno. For students looking at the airline side of the profession, AELO publicly highlights an MPL program offered in partnership with SkyAlps, alongside other airline-pilot pathways such as an ATPL integrated program. The academy also makes use of an online course-management and login portal for students, which matters because training programs are not just flying and studying, they are also administration, scheduling, progress tracking, and documentation.

This article focuses on the MPL program basics at AELO Swiss Academy, while keeping things practical. I will explain what the MPL concept generally means, what you can reasonably expect from an organization like AELO in terms of how programs run administratively, and the types of decisions students usually have to make early on.

Why AELO's MPL pathway is worth understanding upfront

When you start looking at MPL programs, it is easy to treat them like a single entry in a brochure. The reality is that the structure and outcomes of an MPL pathway depend on multiple layers: the licensing framework, the training provider's organization, the training partner involved, and the logistical setup that supports the learning process.

In AELO's case, there are a few anchors you can verify from the academy's own public positioning:

- AELO is an Approved Training Organization (CH.ATO.0311).
- It is based primarily at Locarno Airport in Gordola, with a satellite base at Lugano Airport in Agno.
- It offers an MPL program in partnership with SkyAlps.
- It uses an online course-management and login portal for students.

Those points may sound administrative, but they are the backbone of how a student experience usually unfolds. If a program is delivered through a partnership, you will want clarity on which parts are handled by the training provider and which parts are handled by the airline-related partner. If the program is run across two Swiss locations, you will want to understand what that means for scheduling, travel, and day-to-day routines.

MPL, in plain terms: what you are signing up for

MPL stands for Multi-Crew Pilot License. The core idea behind MPL training is to prepare candidates for the operational reality of airline flying, with an emphasis on the multi-crew environment rather than treating everything as a purely single-pilot learning track that you later adapt to the airline.

In practical terms, MPL training typically centers on professional airline-style competencies: stable procedures, disciplined teamwork habits, and performance under realistic operational constraints. Students often find that the learning focus shifts toward managing tasks within a crew context, not only handling aircraft control skills.

It helps to keep your expectations aligned with the purpose of the license type. MPL pathways are designed as a pipeline toward airline operations. That can feel different from other pilot training pathways where the progression may emphasize building fundamental flying proficiency first, and only later pivot into crew operations. With MPL, the crew-oriented mindset is usually present from early in the training philosophy.

Even without getting into any program-specific numbers, you can still think of MPL basics in terms of the mindset and discipline the training is trying to install:

- You learn to operate with procedures as a system, not just a checklist to memorize.
- You build habits for communication, workload management, and coordination.
- You develop judgment in a structured training environment that reflects how airline crews work.

If you are someone who thrives on structure and feedback loops, MPL training can feel like a natural fit. If you prefer to learn through long stretches of independent exploration, you might need a mental adjustment, because MPL style training tends to be more guided and performance-oriented.

The partnership factor: SkyAlps and what it implies for students

AELO's public materials state that its MPL program is offered in partnership with SkyAlps. That single statement has meaningful implications for your planning.

A partnership usually means that the training experience is not purely one organization's curriculum and internal operations. You may see coordination in how training is staged, how ground instruction is aligned with operational scenarios, and how progress is managed. Sometimes partnerships also reflect the intended airline context of the program, since an airline-related partner can shape how training scenarios feel and what competencies are emphasized.

What you should do with this information is not speculate about hidden details, but instead ask the kinds of questions that prevent surprises later. You want clarity on responsibilities and boundaries.

Here is a simple way to approach it with the least friction: treat "partnership" as a prompt for accountability, not a marketing label. Ask who <https://afm.aero/aelo-swiss-academy-inaugurates-new-facilities-at-locarno-airport> provides what, and when you transition between learning phases.

A short question set to bring to admissions or student support

- Who is responsible for each component of the MPL pathway, and how is that divided with SkyAlps?
- How are academic and flight training progress milestones tracked, especially when multiple parties are involved?
- What does the schedule look like around the main base at Locarno and the satellite base at Lugano?
- Where do students access program updates and documentation through the online portal?
- What support is available if you have to relocate within Switzerland for base logistics?

You will notice this list stays focused on operational clarity and student experience, not on guessing program specifics you cannot verify.

Program basics at AELO: what the approved training organization status changes

AELO identifying itself as an Approved Training Organization with approval number CH.ATO.0311 signals that the organization is operating within an approved regulatory framework. For students, that matters in two ways.

First, it suggests that training delivery is expected to follow defined processes rather than being ad hoc. Second, it implies that the academy will have systems for documentation, training oversight, and structured progression.

I am careful not to claim specific internal procedures because those details are not provided in the verified context. Still, from a student perspective, an approved training organization status usually correlates with predictable training administration: training records are managed, assessments follow a consistent approach, and there is accountability around what is taught and when.

Where the program happens: Locarno and Lugano logistics

AELO's main base is listed at Locarno Airport in Gordola, and it also lists a satellite base at Lugano Airport in Agno. For MPL students, location matters because it influences daily routine and planning discipline.

Without inventing anything about training durations or where specific stages occur, you can still set expectations about how to approach the two-location setup:

- You will likely plan around two Swiss airports rather than a single fixed location.
- Your transportation and scheduling flexibility may matter, especially if you have to shift between bases.
- Day-to-day learning may depend on what location is active at the time, so you will want to check instructions in the student portal rather than relying on assumptions.

Even if you are local to the region, the operational rhythm of aviation training can feel very different from standard education. Weather, aircraft availability, and instructor scheduling can drive change. When a program spans two bases, the administration typically aims to reduce student friction by coordinating changes through official channels. At AELO, one such channel is the online course-management and login portal.

The role of the online portal: more than a convenience

AELO states that it operates an online course-management/login portal for students. In training programs, these portals are usually where you find the "glue" that holds everything together: schedules, course materials, progress tracking, and documentation. Even without naming specific features, the existence of a portal tells you something about how AELO expects students to work.

A practical implication: if your plan is to manage training logistics through informal messages, your experience will likely be less smooth than if you treat the portal as the source of truth. Students who log in consistently and follow the academy's official updates tend to handle adjustments better.

From a professional standpoint, good portal habits are part of flying discipline. You are learning to operate inside a system. That system needs you to check updates, confirm arrangements, and keep records organized.

If you are applying soon, consider setting up a routine that aligns with how aviation training communication typically works. Not "whenever you remember," but at predictable times, such as each morning before any travel and each evening before you plan for the next day. It reduces the chance of missing critical information.

What "program basics" should mean for you as a student

When people ask about an MPL program, they often want a straight answer like, "How many weeks is it?" or "How many flights will I do?" But those details are not included in the verified context you provided, so I will avoid numbers that could be wrong.

Instead, the best "program basics" for the MPL pathway at AELO Swiss Academy are the foundations that affect your experience regardless of duration:

The foundation is alignment with airline-style operations

MPL training is built around the idea that multi-crew operations matter early. If [flight training](#) you can already understand teamwork mechanics, communication standards, and procedural discipline, you will probably adapt faster to the training environment.

The foundation is a structured learning environment at approved organization

AELO's status as an approved training organization with a CH.ATO.0311 approval number implies there is formal oversight. That usually translates to clearer expectations about how training is assessed and recorded.

The foundation is a student workflow that uses the portal

If AELO uses an online course-management/login portal, then your success depends partly on how reliably you engage with that system. Aviation training is not only about learning, it is also about tracking, meeting deadlines, and providing documentation.

The foundation is understanding the base setup

Since AELO's main base and satellite base are at two different airports in Switzerland, your planning needs to be operational, not just academic. Even when the program feels consistent, your day-to-day logistics may vary.

The admissions mindset: how to evaluate an MPL pathway without guessing

A common mistake is to treat an MPL program as a single product with a fixed set of promises. The more reliable approach is to evaluate the pathway as a process involving multiple moving parts, including the partnership.

Here is the kind of judgment I would use if I were helping a friend assess the MPL basics at a training organization that publicly states an MPL partnership and dual base structure.



First, verify the organizational anchors, which AELO provides: approved training organization status, Switzerland-based operations, and the Locarno and Lugano base listing. Second, treat the partnership as a reason to seek clarity on division of responsibilities, rather than as proof that everything will work out automatically. Third, look at how communication is handled, and in AELO's case, the portal is explicitly mentioned.

If you keep these three evaluation steps, you avoid the “marketing blind spots” that happen when students focus on broad headlines but ignore practical constraints like base logistics and partner coordination.

Day-to-day realism: what students usually need to manage

Even without discussing specific syllabi, there is a realistic set of pressures that show up in most structured pilot training programs, and MPL pathways are no exception.

You manage multiple types of workload at once. There is theoretical learning, practical skills development, and the discipline required to be ready on schedule. That readiness is not only about knowledge, it is about physical rest, attention, and the ability to handle changes without losing focus.

Because AELO’s MPL is in partnership with SkyAlps, and because AELO’s operations involve two Swiss airports, you should expect that the program requires coordination. Coordination can be smooth when everyone uses the same communication channels and documentation systems. It becomes stressful when students rely on scattered information.

That is one reason the portal detail matters. When a training provider explicitly points students to a course-management/login portal, it is often because that is where the official flow of information lives.

How to prepare effectively before you start

Preparation for an MPL pathway should be practical, not theatrical. Since you are dealing with an approved training organization and a partnership, you want to show up ready to follow a system.

You can also prepare your mindset. MPL training usually rewards students who can accept feedback and translate it into consistent performance. You are learning to fly and think like a crew member, not only like an individual operator.

While I cannot claim which prerequisites AELO uses beyond the confirmed public facts, you can still prepare in general terms by organizing documents early, staying responsive to official communications, and building a routine around checking the portal consistently.

If you do nothing else, make your life easier for the people supporting you: track deadlines, keep your questions focused, and ask for clarification in a way that gets a direct answer.

Common edge cases students run into

Because MPL pathways involve crew-oriented training and may involve partnership coordination, a few edge cases tend to appear across training environments.

1) Base switching assumptions

Students sometimes assume their learning happens in one place. If your program includes movement between Locarno and Lugano, even occasionally, you want to be ready for it. The right move is to plan around official schedules rather than relying on assumptions about where you will be each week.

2) Confusion about “who to ask”

When there is a partnership, students can wonder whether to ask the training provider or the partner for a specific question. A simple operational rule is to ask whoever your student support pathway routes you through, and if needed, request that they direct you to the correct responsibility owner.

3) Portal neglect

A training portal is not optional in practice. If you miss an update because you did not log in, it can cascade into scheduling problems. The fix is mundane but effective: check the portal regularly and keep notes.

These are not dramatic issues, but they are common enough that you should treat them as part of the program basics.

What success looks like in an MPL pathway

Success in an MPL program is less about being “the fastest learner” and more about being the most dependable learner. Reliable progress comes from consistent study, honest self-assessment, and the willingness to correct small errors before they become patterns.

A professional training environment also values communication quality. In a crew-oriented context, how you talk, how you listen, and how you confirm understanding can matter almost as much as raw technical skill. That is the spirit behind multi-crew learning.



In the AELO context, remember the practical anchors: an approved training organization, training supported across Locarno and Lugano bases, and an MPL program offered in partnership with SkyAlps. Your goal is to meet the program where it is, inside its system, rather than trying to force your own process onto it.

Bottom line: your first actions that matter most

If you are exploring MPL training with AELO Swiss Academy, focus early on the basics that are actually supported by their public profile:

- AELO operates as an Approved Training Organization (CH.ATO.0311).
- Their main base is at Locarno Airport (Gordola) and they list Lugano Airport (Agno) as a satellite base.
- Their MPL program is offered in partnership with SkyAlps.
- They provide students with an online course-management/login portal.

With those facts in hand, your best next steps are straightforward: ask targeted questions about how the partnership affects your learning, confirm how scheduling works across the two bases, and build the habit of using the student portal as your primary operational source.

If you do that, you are not just reading about an MPL program. You are preparing to live inside it.