

Multiple Paths for your Talents and Interests

There are numerous aviation career options that can take advantage of your unique skills.

Do you know what keeps an airplane or helicopter flying? Sure, wings and engines do the aerodynamic work. But it's really people who keep aircraft going.

General aviation is a large and growing industry supporting nearly 1.3 million jobs and \$158 billion in annual economic activity in the United States. It employs people in finance, business management, customer service, engineering, electronics, software and hardware development, marketing, sales, insurance, science, law, medicine, real estate and other occupations. If you have a passion for aviation, there are career opportunities for you.

To turn your passion into a reality, education and training are important. Many positions require a college degree, technical school education, specialized career training, or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification. That's why there are many colleges and universities in the United States that offer aviation-related programs. Some jobs require written and oral examinations and practical skills tests, as well as periodic retesting. But specialized education and training often mean positions with high wages, good job security, flexibility and mobility.



Pilots

There are many opportunities for pilots in addition to the most obvious, the airlines. In agriculture, pilots ensure the productivity of our nation's farms. Pilots for government agencies play vital roles in land and wildlife management.



Traffic reporting pilots alert commuters to highway trouble spots. Helicopter pilots fly for law enforcement, medical and business needs. Corporate pilots allow executives to make efficient use of their time visiting clients and distant offices. The military and NASA employ thousands of pilots. An emerging industry of air taxis has pilots who transport passengers to and from the nation's 5,000 public-use airports, on-demand. And without flight instructors, there would be no professional pilots. Most piloting jobs require a college degree and required FAA training, testing and licensing.



Airline and Airport Operations

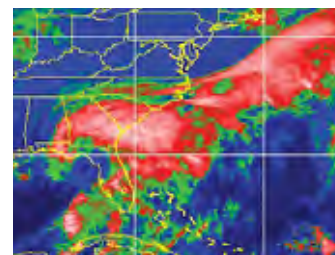
Airlines, airports, the FAA and private companies that service aircraft hire a wide range of workers to keep flying safe and efficient. Qualifications range from a high school diploma for ramp workers to a college degree for management positions and flight dispatchers. Specialized training is required for other positions including air traffic controllers, safety inspectors and airport firefighting and rescue personnel.

Aircraft Manufacturing and Maintenance

It takes skilled engineers and technicians to build and maintain today's state-of-the-art aircraft.

Engineers must have a college degree while technicians, machinists, and assemblers should have at least a high school diploma.

Airframe and powerplant mechanics require at least a high school diploma and specialized technical training and licensing. Avionics specialists who install and service aircraft electronics are in demand with the growth of advanced "glass cockpit" instrumentation.



Scientific and Technical Services

It's technology that keeps our air transportation system working smoothly. Engineers serve multiple roles at aircraft manufacturers, the FAA and NASA. Meteorologists provide critical information about weather conditions for flying. Cartographers produce vital navigation charts. Architects design airport buildings and terminals. Technicians maintain the computer, radio, satellite and radar systems used to control the nation's airspace. Most positions require college degrees or technical training.



Law and Law Enforcement

Aviation law and law enforcement require special training and knowledge. Aviation attorneys in government, corporate and private practices require a law degree. Drug enforcement and Customs agents need a college degree. Accident investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board and insurance companies require a college degree and related experience. Aviation security officers, inspectors and specialists should have at least a high school diploma and specialized training.

Food Services

Food services play an important role in making sure flight crews and passengers have food and beverages. In fact, food service can make all the difference in a passenger's flight experience. That's especially true in corporate and charter flight operations, which seek to distinguish their level of service. A high school diploma and health certification are needed for most food service jobs, while a related college degree is needed for management positions.



That's just a quick overview of some of the career paths in aviation. Use the attached Aviation Career Finder to explore the opportunities that interest you and the training needed. You may discover others we haven't mentioned here. The sky really is the limit when it comes to an aviation career.



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
421 Aviation Way, Frederick, Maryland 21701
1-800-USA-AOPA
www.aopa.org/path

10/06



Aviation Careers

The Sky's The Limit

PATH
TO AVIATION



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-695-2000
www.aopa.org

Help Wanted!

CAREERS IN AVIATION

The aviation industry offers career opportunities to suit many interests and backgrounds. As aviation remains an integral part of our society, there will be a growing need for qualified personnel. AOPA provides this look at careers in aviation for you as you plan for your future.

CAREER TITLE	EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	WHO EMPLOYS
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PILOT CAREERS

Agricultural Pilot	H.S. diploma, special training, and license	Agricultural operators, large farms
Air Traffic Reporting Pilot	College preferred	Radio & TV; traffic reporting companies
Major/National Airline Pilot	College preferred; most require 4-year degree	Major and national airlines
Regional Airline Pilot	College preferred; most require 4-year degree	Regional airlines
Helicopter Pilot	College preferred; most require 4-year degree	Helicopter operators, corporate flight departments
Corporate Pilot	College preferred; most require 4-year degree	Companies with flight departments
Air Taxi Pilot	College preferred	Fixed base operators, air taxi operators
Flight Instructor	H.S. diploma	Flight schools
Military Pilot	College degree	U. S. Armed Forces
Astronaut	Engineering, physical science, physics, or similar advanced degree	NASA

AIRLINE AND AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Airport Manager	College degree in airport management or business administration	Airports, airport authorities
Fixed Base Operator Manager	H.S. diploma; college degree sometimes preferred	Fixed base operators (FBOs)
Lineperson	H.S. diploma	Airports, airlines, FBOs
Station Manager	H.S. diploma; experience preferred	Airlines
Scheduling Coordinator	College degree preferred; experience helpful	Airlines
Flight Dispatcher	Dispatcher's license; college degree and experience preferred	Airlines
Air Traffic Controller	FAA training; college preferred	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Safety Inspector	Engineering degree and/or experience as pilot or mechanic	FAA
Concession Workers	H.S. diploma	Airport concessionaires
Fire and Crash Rescue	Special training; college preferred	Medium to large airports
Ground Attendant	H.S. diploma	Airlines
Ramp Service Personnel	H.S. diploma	Airlines, airports, FBOs
Cabin Maintenance Mechanic	H.S. diploma, technical training	Airlines
Ramp Planner	H.S. diploma; experience preferred	Airlines

AIRLINE AND AIRPORT SERVICES

Customer Services Representative	H.S. diploma, business experience	Airlines
Ticket Agent	H.S. diploma, two years college preferred	Airlines
Reservations Sales Agent	H.S. diploma; two years college preferred	Airlines
Flight Attendants	H.S. diploma, special training; college pref.	Airlines
Baggage Handlers	H.S. diploma	Airlines
Sky Caps	H.S. diploma	Airlines
Cargo Handlers	H.S. diploma	Airlines, air freight companies
Air Freight/Cargo Agent	H.S. diploma, shipping experience	Airlines, air freight operators
Passenger Service Agent	H.S. diploma; experience helpful	Airlines

**CAREER
TITLE****EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS****WHO
EMPLOYS****AIRCRAFT AND SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE**

Airframe <u>or</u> Powerplant Mechanic	H.S. diploma, technical training; degree pref.	Airlines, FBOs, private companies
Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic	H.S. diploma, technical training; degree pref.	Airlines, FBOs, private companies
Avionics Specialist	H.S. diploma, technical training; degree pref.	Airlines, FBOs, private companies

AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING OCCUPATIONS (*Information courtesy Raytheon Aircraft Co.*)

Manufacturing Engineers	Bachelor of Science degree	Aircraft manufacturers
Electrical Installers & Technicians	H.S. diploma, Associate's degree	Aircraft manufacturers
Tool, Jig & Fixture Makers	H.S. diploma, vocational school	Aircraft manufacturers
Machine Tool Operators	H.S. diploma, vocational school	Aircraft manufacturers
Sheet Metal Fabrication	H.S. diploma	Aircraft manufacturers
Assemblers & Installers	H.S. diploma	Aircraft manufacturers
Quality Technicians	H.S. diploma, Associate's degree	Aircraft manufacturers

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Engineers (Aeronautical, Aerospace, Civil, Electrical, Mechanical)	Engineering degree	Aircraft manufacturers, FAA, NASA
Meteorologists	Meteorology degree; experience preferred	National Weather Service, airlines, private weather companies
Cartographers	Cartography degree	NOAA, federal & state governments, private companies
Architects	Architecture degree	Airports, architecture firms
Technicians (Electronics, Radar, Navigation)	H.S. diploma, special training	FAA, independent contractors

LAW-RELATED SERVICES

Aviation Attorney	Law degree	FAA, airlines, governments, private law firms
Sky Marshal	H.S. diploma, police academy, law enforcement experience	FAA
Drug Enforcement Agents	College degree, special training; exp. pref.	Drug Enforcement Administration
Customs Agents	College degree	U.S. Customs
Security Officers	H.S. diploma, special training	Airlines, airports
Inspectors	H.S. diploma, special training	Construction companies, airport consultants, governments
Accident Investigator	College degree, industry experience	Nat'l Trans Safety Board, FAA, insurance companies
Security Specialist	H.S. diploma, law enforcement experience	FAA

HEALTH SERVICES

Flight Physician/Aviation Medical Examiner	Medical degree	Airlines, NASA, FAA, military, private practice
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OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

Travel Agents	H.S. diploma, special training	Travel agencies, government
Secretaries/Administrative Assistants	H.S. diploma	Industry-wide
Information Systems Specialist	College degree	Industry-wide

FOOD SERVICES

Food Preparers	H.S. diploma, health certificate required	Airlines, airline caterers, airports
Operations Supervisor	College degree in field	Industry-wide