



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION  
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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