

***Aviation Industry Sectors***

***Career Opportunities***

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# Career Opportunities

These Powerpoint slides provide an overview of many areas of aviation where there are career opportunities. As with most industries, your chances to obtain the job you want and/or to advance are enhanced with higher education.

The **Schoolcraft Aviation Management program** is intended to provide a basic background in key areas of the world of aviation. A skills certificate or an Associate Degree will provide a good foundation for many aviation jobs and can also serve as a strong beginning for your future transfer to a four-year college or university.

# CARGO

- Large jets (e.g 747, DC-10 )
- Some employees travel internationally
- Hire: Mechanics, Dispatchers, Flight Attendants, Maintenance Personnel, Ramp Agents, Flight Followers, Load Controllers, Pilots etc.



# CORPORATE AVIATION

- Growing sector due to companies/travelers wanting flexibility in their travel plans/business trips
- Many employees are on call 24/7
- Customer service is a top priority!
- Hire: Pilots, Flight Attendants, Dispatchers, Customer Service Agents, Chefs, Aircraft Detailers, Various Management etc.



# HELICOPTER INDUSTRY

- Large Heavy Lift:  
Construction, forest fires, logging, pipeline, placing roof-top air conditioners
- Light Lift:  
Rescue, life flight, police, petroleum platform service, disaster relief
- Hire: Mechanics, Pilots, Dispatchers, Engineers, Management, Field Techs, Records Specialists etc.



# MILITARY AVIATION

- Civilians can work on military aircraft on a military base or at a repair station
- Usually very extensive background check and security clearance required
- Often specialize in only one type of aircraft



# CONTRACTING

- Multiple choices for types of work and geographical locations.
  - “Try before you buy”
- Varied experience on different types of aircraft
- Entry level and experienced positions
- Probation period then may be hired “direct”
- Per diem pay if a certain number of miles from ‘home’



# GENERAL AVIATION

- Can be private / civilian aircraft (usually 2-4 seats)
- Piston, turboprop and light turbine (corporate jets)
- Numerous companies that service, sell, and maintain these aircraft at small airports all across the nation
- Usually Mon-Fri with set day hours
- Work at FBO's, Flight Schools, Repair Stations, Aircraft Leasing Companies etc.





# MAJORS

- Determined by revenue, not size
- Most employees work at headquarters of hubs
- Good benefit package including flight benefits
- Hire hundreds of positions entry-level and experienced



# LEGACY AIRLINES

- Downsizing ( \$ ) and in the news all the time
  - Outsourcing their maintenance to repair stations (contracting)
  - Pax are usually flown to the HUB by a regional / major so the legacy carrier can fly the "long" routes
  - Hundreds of careers options to look at
- Northwest, Delta United, American, US Airways



Tim Boyle / Newsmakers file

# REGIONALS

- Transport passengers from small to mid size cities to the hub for the long flight
  - Support legacy and major airlines
  - Flight and other good benefits
  - Good start for entry level aviation careers
  - Usually have extensive training programs
  - Employees are hired at headquarters or at one of the bases or outstations
- Regional Jets
  - Turbine
  - 50-80 passengers



# NATIONALS

- Not yet a Major – but CLOSE (based on revenue)
- “Spirit Airlines” is an example
- Usually do mid size to long haul routes
- Same benefits as Majors and Regionals



# AEROSPACE

- Specialized positions
- Companies are usually low key- many in the Detroit area that no one knows about
- Common positions are in research, development and engineering
- Potential for career growth is very good



# MANUFACTURING

- Booming industry!
- Companies can't keep up with aircraft orders
- Stable jobs- don't have to relocate or move- operations stay in one place
- Careers are varied from administrative, sales, to mechanical and engineering



# LIGHT SPORT

- New category of aircraft
- Specific pilot and maintenance requirements
- Piston and turbine
- Affordable for new pilots
- New manufacturers popping up across U.S.



# VERY LIGHT JET

- New industry-booming!
- Light jet engine and airframe manufacturers all positions





# AIRCRAFT COMPONENT SALES

- You want to sell parts and components?
- Like traveling for aviation shows ?
- Above average customer service skills?



# INSTRUCTION

- Teach aviation students at technical colleges, aviation high schools and universities
- Usually field experience is required
- Instructor for an airline teaching new hires policies and aircraft systems
- Varied hours and travel
- Must be comfortable speaking to groups and dealing with various personalities



# REPAIR STATIONS

- Perform maintenance on large aircraft for airlines (outsourcing)
- Stable industry, companies stay in one location
- Same types of positions that airlines have



# COMPLETION CENTERS

- Customize aircraft interiors
- Very expensive leather, carpet, woods, etc....
- Creative people
- Skilled craftsman and customer service-oriented employees



# AVIONICS / STRUCTURES

- Avionics
  - Communication and Navigation
  - Modify, install and maintain electronics
- Structures
  - Sheet metal repair and fabrication
  - Composites
- High demand for both; must have Federal certification in most positions



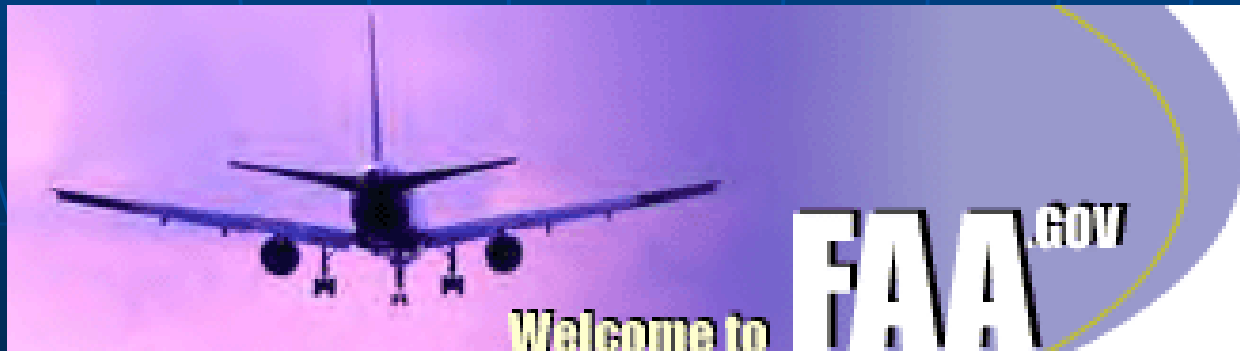
# AVIATION SECURITY

- Security personnel at airlines, aviation companies, government contractors etc.
- Federal security positions



# FAA

- Careers for the Federal Aviation Administration across the U.S.
- Apply and name goes in a 'pool' of candidates (could wait for years)
- Excellent pay and retirement benefits.



# AIRPORT MANAGEMENT

- Aviation management or business degree often required
- Work way up in the industry when possible
- Careers available across U.S.
- Join Airport Executives organization





# AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



- Specialized training and Federal certification required
- Age limits
- Must excel at multi-tasking and communication skills
- Hours 24/7 365

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

- Special training (NTSB) and degree usually required
- Must be able to work a variety of hours, often on call
- Good troubleshooting skills
- Often has aviation training/background to transfer skills



# CONSULTING

- People with years of field experience often start own consulting business on certain topics

*Aviation Consultants, L.L.C.*

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*The Aviation Technical Experts*

# AIRCRAFT DISPATCHING

- Must be flexible to move where jobs are
- Minimum age limit to become dispatcher
- “Pilot on the Ground”
- Federal license needed
- Must be able to work nights, holidays, weekends etc.



# Annual Earnings in Air Transportation \*

Airline Pilots	\$137,160
Aircraft Mechanics	54,890
Supervisors/Managers of Office & Administrative Support Workers	47,450
Flight Attendants	43,470
Baggage Porters & Bellhops	38,600
Cargo & Freight Agents	36,700

\*

Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)) 2004

# *For Further Information*

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