

# JOB DESCRIPTION: Air Force Pilot

Many young people dream of becoming pilots in the U.S. Air Force, but only a handful of those who enlist make the cut. To become a pilot, you must meet a series of requirements, some of which are the same for all enlistees, and others that are specific to aspiring pilots only.



## **Requirements to be a USAF Pilot:**

### **General Requirements**

You must be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States to join the Air Force, although you can apply for citizenship after enlisting if you are a legal resident.

### **Physical Requirements**

You have to stand between 5 feet 4 inches and 6 feet 5 inches tall. Your height when seated has to be between 34 and 40 inches. You cannot be overweight. You cannot have experienced allergies, hay fever or asthma from age 12 on. Your uncorrected distance vision can be no worse than 20/50 in either eye or your uncorrected close vision must be 20/20 in both eyes. You cannot become a pilot if you are colorblind or have had your vision corrected with laser surgery.

### **Examinations**

You will have to pass a physical examination as well as psychological and background tests before you are accepted into the Air Force.

### **Rank and Educational Requirements**

To be a pilot, you have to be an officer, which means you must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in the sciences, and an overall GPA of at least 3.4. Prior flight school training is also a plus.

Pilots must hold a rank of at least second lieutenant, which you can get by enrolling in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at your college, going to Officer Training School after you finish college, or getting your [college degree](#) at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.



### **Air Force Testing**

In addition to admission testing, you will have to take the Basic Aptitude Test and Air Force Qualifying Test and score adequately on both. After you've met all these requirements, you have to complete flight [school](#) successfully.

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## Pilot Careers

Air Force pilots have several options when it comes to choosing a flight career. They can become fighter pilots, test pilots, bomber pilots, generalist pilots, trainer pilots, helicopter pilots, tanker pilots, mobility pilots, reconnaissance/surveillance/electronic warfare pilots, remotely operated aircraft pilots or special operations pilots. Flying the most advanced aircraft in the world is only one of the many responsibilities associated with a career as an Air Force pilot. Your leadership skills and character are of paramount importance as you take charge of training and commanding crews to accomplish missions. Each type of pilot specializes in different aircraft and skill sets. To learn more, browse through the job descriptions below.

**Bomber Pilot** flies bomber aircraft and commands crews to accomplish combat operations and training missions.

**Test Pilot** plans, conducts, directs and reports on flight test programs associated with the design, development and modification of aircraft, aerospace vehicles, flight simulators and related systems.

**Fighter Pilot** operates fighter-type aircraft and commands crews to accomplish combat, training and other missions.

**Generalist Pilot** develops plans and policies, monitors and evaluates operations, coordinates staff activities and advises commanders.

**Helicopter Pilot** operates rotary-wing aircraft and commands crews to accomplish combat, training and other missions.

**Trainer Pilot** is responsible for flying trainer aircraft in furtherance of the pilot-training mission.



**Mobility Pilot** flies a variety of mobility aircraft and commands crews to accomplish tanker, airlifts, training and other missions.

**Reconnaissance/Surveillance/Electronic Warfare Pilot** operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish reconnaissance, surveillance, search and rescue, electronic warfare, training and other missions.

**Special Operations Pilot** flies special operations aircraft (fixed-wing or helicopter) and commands crews to accomplish special operations, training and other missions.

**Tanker Pilot** operates tanker aircraft and commands crews to accomplish air refueling, airlifts, training and other missions.

**Remotely Operated Aircraft (ROA) Pilot** operates specialized mission aircraft and commands flight crews to accomplish reconnaissance, surveillance, combat, training and other missions

### Links to more Air Force Pilot Information click below:

<http://usmilitary.about.com/od/airforcejoin/ss/afpilot.htm>

<http://www.afrotc.com/>

Courtesy: USAF & USAF ROTC

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