

Aerospace Careers: Air Operations Manager

A career as an airport manager

Introduction

Airport managers oversee more than seventeen thousand airports in the United States. Some are large metropolitan airports with hundreds of scheduled flights arriving and departing every day. Others are private airfields with no scheduled flights and very little daily activity. Small airports are generally managed by their owners, but the operations of medium-sized and large airports are so complex that the airports need part-time or full-time managers.



Airport-Manager

While they generally have no direct control over flying activities, airport managers do make sure that Federal Aviation Administration regulations are enforced. They maintain good relations with the airlines that fly in and out of their airports and supervise the maintenance of runways and airport buildings. They oversee budgets, staffing, and public relations. Above all, airport managers must ensure that their airports run safely and efficiently and provide good service to their communities.

Depending on the size of the airport, managers may supervise small clerical staffs or large staffs of assistants and other workers. Alone or with their staffs, managers plan for the future needs of their airports and oversee new construction; meet with government officials and public representatives; and tackle the problems faced by passengers. Because businesses operating in the airport, such as food concessions and car rental companies, generate considerable income for airports, managers must negotiate contracts and make sure the vendors provide good service.

Airport managers do not need to be pilots, but they do need to understand aviation and business management. They must be able to work well with people and communicate effectively. Leadership and decision-making skills are essential. Maintaining good community – airport relations is critical to a well run airport.



Education

Bachelor's degrees are required to enter this field. Most airport managers get degrees in business administration with special emphasis on air transportation or engineering. Many managers complete graduate studies in business administration.

High school courses in English, social studies, and mathematics can be helpful preparation. College courses should include management policies, economics, finance, public relations, business law, aviation legislation, and engineering. A few airports offer one- or two-year internship programs for college graduates. The programs provide experience in all phases of airport management.

Links to more Airport Manager Information click below:

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<http://careers.stateuniversity.com/pages/816/Airport-Manager.html#ixzz1WA3cqBcB>

Links to more Reference Information click below:

<http://www.aci-na.org>

<http://www.aaae.org>



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