

JOB DESCRIPTION: Airline Pilots

Airline pilots are highly trained professionals who fly airplanes or helicopters to carry out a wide variety of tasks. Most are *airline pilots*, *copilots*, and *flight engineers* who transport passengers and cargo.



Education and training

Most employers prefer college graduates for the job. Test pilots are usually required to have engineering degrees.

All pilots who are paid to transport passengers or cargo must have commercial pilot's licenses. Applicants must be at least eighteen years old and have at least 250 hours of flight experience. Fewer hours of flight experience are required of applicants who participate in certain FAA-approved flight schools. Applicants must also pass strict physical examinations to determine that they are in good health and have both good hearing and vision correctable to 20/20. The FAA also administers two tests for the license: one is a written test to check knowledge of FAA rules, navigation techniques, and the principles of safe flight; the other is a demonstration of flying skills, including flying by instruments, for an FAA check pilot. Licenses are granted for certain classes and types of airplanes. For example, all pilots must have ratings for the class of plane they can fly (such as single-engine, multiengine, or seaplane) and for the specific type of plane (such as DC-9s or Boeing 747s).

The Steps:

Step One: Obtain a First Class Medical Certificate

A "First Class" medical is something that you'll need to maintain throughout your pilot career. Contrary to popular belief, you can wear glasses and still be an airline pilot as long as your vision is correctable to 20/20.



Step Two: Private Pilot Certificate

This phase requires approximately 40 hours of flying time in which you learn basic maneuvers, navigation skills, and some basic instrument skills.

Step Three: "Instrument Rating"

After you've built up some hours after your Private Pilots License (PPL), you begin to work on your instrument rating. Basically, you learn to fly the aircraft solely by reference to the instrument panel. You do various instrument approaches and cross country flights in actual or simulated instrument conditions.

Step Four: Commercial Certificate(s)

The certification requires demonstration of advanced maneuvers and more precise flying skills than shown for the private pilot check ride. You need at least 250 hours in order to qualify for this certificate. Also, many students will begin their multi-engine training in which you learn to fly a multi-engine aircraft -- usually a Beechcraft Duchess, Piper Seminole or Seneca. You will be responsible for demonstrating that you can do instrument approaches with both and only one engine operating.

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Step Five: Time building!

You can obtain your Certified Flight Instructor certificate in order to build flight time by instructing other student pilots, fly banner towing, freight, aerial surveying, or whatever else you can do to build flight time. Some freshly certified commercial pilots are fortunate enough to be offered positions at a regional airline affiliated with the flight school at which they learned. Flying for a regional airline is critical because you fly advanced equipment into high density airports and hone the skills that major airlines are looking for in a new hire pilot.

Step Six: The Airline Transport Pilot Certificate

You can think of the ATP certificate as the "Master's Degree of Flying". You're eligible for this license when you have at least 1500 hours and meet some other requirements. Without an ATP, many major airlines really wouldn't want to consider your application until you do. I received my ATP during my initial captain upgrade training at Skyway Airlines a few years ago.

Finally

Apply. Apply. Apply.



Links to more Airline Pilot Information click below:

How to become an airplane pilot: <http://www.airaffair.com/Library/start-airplanes.html>

Job Opening announcement and requirements needed: <http://www.mesa-air.com/pilots.asp>

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/transport/flight/modern/pilot2.htm>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos107.htm#training>

Courtesy: Jetcareers.com

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