

What does it take to become a **AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN?**

Aircraft are highly complex machines that require reliable parts and specialized service to fly safely. To keep an airplane in peak operating condition, aircraft mechanics examine aircraft frames and parts for defects; diagnose mechanical or electrical problems; and measure parts for wear, using precision instruments. Reading maintenance manuals to identify methods of repair, they repair wings, brakes, electrical systems, and other defective aircraft components and parts, using hand tools. Another important aspect is to test aircraft parts with gauges and other diagnostic equipment against manufacturer performance standards, while keeping records of maintenance and repair work

Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in Mathematics and Science are considered useful, whereas exposure to computer software applications also stands you in good stead. Aircraft technicians need to be physically fit and strong; whilst possessing a good sense of visual awareness, a high level of attention to detail, and the ability to work under pressure. Observational proficiency and safety consciousness are of utmost importance in ensuring that an aircraft is kept in optimal operating condition.



Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions. Most aircraft technicians have some sort of official and industry-approved specialized certification, authorising them to work on any part of the aircraft, except electronic flight instruments, which is the job of avionics technicians. Amassing industry experience is of utmost importance in building resumes, as employers prefer well-experienced workers. For further training, many technicians opt for bachelor's degree programs in disciplines related to aviation technology and management.

Working Conditions

Aircraft technicians work in hangars, in repair stations, or on airfields. They must often meet strict deadlines to maintain flight schedules, yet still maintain safety standards. This is quite stressful at times. Most technicians work near major airports. They often work outside, on the airfield, while repair and corporate mechanics work in climate-controlled shops. Civilian aircraft mechanics employed by the armed forces may also work on military installations. The work can be noisy from loud aircraft engines. Workers must often bend, stoop, and reach from ladders and scaffolds. Most aircraft technicians work full time with some overtime. Weekend work is common.

Job Prospects

Employment of aircraft technicians is concentrated in a small number of industries. The majority of technicians work for national airlines and private aviation companies. With more international airlines adding Namibia to their routes and with plans to expand the international airport, the local aviation industry is set for growth, and more employment opportunities for qualified aircraft technicians are sure to arise.

You too can live your passion and qualify as an Aircraft Technician. If you are physically fit and strong, have a good general knowledge of aircraft, and possess advanced mechanical, problem-solving, creative thinking and computer software skills, you are a good candidate.

This insert is brought to you by the Namibia Training Authority under its 'Live Your Passion' advocacy campaign. To learn more about other technical and vocational career options, visit our website: www.nta.com.na

'Live Your Passion' is supported by the European Union.



Scan here
to watch the
industry feature