



## CAREER PROFILE

# Drone Pilot

### CAREER OUTLOOK<sup>3</sup>

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts minimal job growth for drone pilots. However, drone pilots usually obtain skills that make them versatile and valuable in avionics mechanics, advanced electronics, or commercial piloting. Furthermore, both the US military and the CIA use drone technology as part of their strategies.

**Projected job growth:**  
3% (2019–2029)

**Average salary range:**  
\$58,350/year

Drones (or UAVs—unmanned aerial vehicles) can go places that humans cannot; therefore, they are ideal for tasks such as emergency supply delivery, search and rescue missions, military efforts, and photographing places that are not easily accessible. With an increase in natural disasters and an emphasis on efficiency and decreased workload in many fields, drones are becoming commonplace in a plethora of industries—from insurance, to power and energy, to the United States Army!

### WHAT IS A DRONE PILOT?<sup>1,2</sup>

**Drone pilots** are certified remote pilots responsible for safely operating a drone. They must demonstrate an understanding of the regulations, operating requirements, and safety procedures of flying drones. They control the vehicle for the entirety of its mission, ensuring that it safely takes off, flies, completes its objective, and lands. They may also conduct safety tests, utilize cameras or communication equipment, and operate extension functions that allow it to pick up, deposit, or in some way manipulate materials.

### IS DRONE PILOT A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Drone pilots are:

- Curious.
- Multi-tasking.
- Strong communicators.
- Problem solvers.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial\\_operators/become\\_a\\_drone\\_pilot/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.4cornerresources.com/job-descriptions/drone-pilot/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bestaccreditedcolleges.org/articles/drone-pilot-jobs-salary.html>



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## HOW DO I BECOME A DRONE PILOT?

You will need to:

- Take classes in technology, mechanics, and computers.
- Develop your communication skills.
- Get experience working with auto mechanics or as an electro-mechanical technician.
- Consider participating in high school military programs.