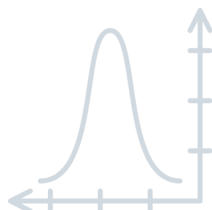




STUDENT ACTIVATION



Aircraft Maintenance Technicians



OVERVIEW

Aircraft maintenance technicians are highly observant, detail-oriented, dexterous professionals who inspect, maintain, and repair different types of aircraft, including helicopters, jets, and piston-driven airplanes. They interpret gauges and use diagnostic tools to conduct tests of instruments and parts of aircraft. They study flight information and examine parts to identify mechanical and electrical issues. They read complex manuals to learn repair procedures and utilize a variety of hand and power tools to replace defective parts and address problems. Finally, aircraft maintenance technicians conduct inspections to ensure completed work is up to standard and keep records of repair work. Although many aircraft maintenance technicians work on different parts of aircraft, many become experts on one section, such as the engine, the hydraulic system, or the electrical system. Others specialize on a single aircraft type.

EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST


- I enjoy diagnosing problems and then fixing things, especially items with engines and motors.
- I like figuring out how things work and identifying the importance of the various component parts of complex items.
- I am dexterous; I have excellent hand-eye coordination and can use my fingers and hands to work on parts that might be in tight places.
- I am able to use instruction manuals to complete complicated, multi-step tasks.
- I am a problem-solver. I have a knack for asking smart questions that help others identify problems and issues. I work with others to formulate solutions to problems.
- I enjoy working with a wide variety of tools.

Aircraft Maintenance Technicians

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



CAREER CONNECTION

How does this career affect me?	What are some other similar careers?	How does this career affect the world? 
<p>Airline travel for vacations and visits to friends and relatives depends upon reliable aircraft. Aircraft maintenance technicians conduct regular maintenance and repairs on commercial airplanes. Their work ensures that air travel is both safe and affordable. Their work helps airlines keep expensive airplanes in use for many years after they are built, reduces flight delays due to mechanical issues, and ensures that travel in the skies is safe.</p>	<p>Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians operate and maintain equipment used to design, build, and maintain aircraft and space vehicles.</p> <p>Automotive and Heavy Equipment Service Technicians and Mechanics inspect, maintain, and repair automobiles and trucks; as well as heavy equipment such as tractors, cranes, and military vehicles.</p> <p>Diesel service technicians perform maintenance on vehicles such as trucks and buses with diesel engines.</p> <p>Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians help design, build, and maintain electrical and electronic equipment, including computers, communication devices, medical equipment, and navigation tools.</p> <p>Mechanical Engineering Technicians help to design, build, and maintain mechanical devices, including industrial tools, engines, and machines.</p>	<p>Even though the United States has the largest fleet of aircraft in the world, airline safety has improved appreciably over time. In 1959, there were 40 fatal airline accidents for every 1 million aircraft departures. Today there are only 0.1 per million. Airline travel is now often said to be the safest form of travel available. There have been similar improvements in global air travel, even though the world's airlines now carry more than 3 billion passengers each year. The development and consistent maintenance of safe and reliable aircraft has been a key to these improvements. In an age of globalization and increased world travel, airline maintenance technicians help ensure that air travel remains safe and affordable.</p>

TAKE ACTION

- Consult manuals and online resources to learn more about the workings of mechanized items in your home, such as appliances, vehicles, and yard equipment. When possible, assist with repair work on these items, learning to use a variety of tools and your hands to replace, adjust, and manipulate parts.
- Visit a flea market or thrift store and acquire an inexpensive, old bicycle, appliance, power tool, or other mechanized or complex item. Use tools and your hands to take the item apart, study how it works, and reassemble it. Make observations about differences between the item you acquired and newer, improved versions.
- Join an organization or take a class at school that assembles or repairs mechanized items. Examples might include a small engine repair course, the robotics team, or mechanical sculpture.