

# Careers in Professional Flight and Aviation Management

**Professional Flight** or airline and commercial pilots fly and navigate airplanes or helicopters. Airline pilots fly for airlines that transport people and cargo on a fixed schedule. Commercial pilots fly aircraft for other reasons, such as charter flights, rescue operations, firefighting, aerial photography, and crop dusting. Commercial piloting requires commercial rating and/or similar certifications.

**Aviation Management** and/or administrative services managers plan, direct, and coordinate supportive services of an organization; in particular those at an airport. Their specific responsibilities vary by the type of organization and may include keeping records, distributing mail, and planning and maintaining facilities.

The functions and duties of professional flight and aviation management degree holders can vary according to the industry of employment. However, the main goal of professional flight and aviation management degree holders is to oversee people, planes/helicopters, buildings, grounds, equipment, and supplies. Their duties fall into several categories, including overseeing operations and maintenance, planning and managing projects, and dealing with environmental factors.

## Sample Professional Flight and Aviation Management Job Titles:

Airport Planning	Commercial Pilot	Operations Managers
Airport Operations Officer	Private Pilot	Marketing Managers
Airport Sales	Flight School Instructor	Transportation Managers
Airport Marketing	Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors	Administrative Service Managers
Fixed Based Operations Manager	General Managers	Human Resources Managers
Transportation Manager	Sales Managers	Training and Development Specialists

### Professional Flight & Aviation Management Job Facts:

- The US Bureau of Labor reports the number of positions in Professional Flight will grow 11% by 2020.
- The US Bureau of Labor reports the number of positions in Aviation Management will grow 15% by 2020.

### Common Mistakes in the Job Search Process:

- Failing to update your resume/cover letter
- Not gathering enough information about the company/position
- Failing to Network to numerous companies

### Typical Professional Flight & Aviation Management Job Responsibilities:

- Follow a checklist of preflight checks on engines, hydraulics, and other systems
- Ensure that all cargo has been loaded and that the aircraft weight is properly balanced
- Check fuel, weather conditions, and flight schedules
- Monitor the facility to ensure that it remains safe, secure, and well maintained
- Ensure that facilities meet environmental, health, and security standards and comply with government regulations
- Supervise clerical and administrative personnel
- Plan budgets for contracts, equipment, and supplies

### Traditional Career Paths for Professional Flight & Aviation Management:

- Airport Sales
- Airport Management
- Commercial Pilot
- Private Pilot

## Careers in Professional Flight & Aviation Management

- Commercial pilots may begin their careers flying charter planes, helicopters, or crop dusters. These positions typically require less experience than airline jobs require. Some commercial pilots may advance to flying corporate planes.
- Airport administrative services managers may examine energy consumption patterns, technology usage, and office equipment. For example, managers may recommend buying new or different equipment or supplies to lower energy costs or improve indoor air quality.

### Key Skills:

- Decision Making Skills
- Communication Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Multi-tasking Skills
- Self-confidence
- Leadership

### Interview Process:

- Spend time thoroughly researching the company
- Think about the areas you are weak in and be prepared to describe them in a positive way
- Show genuine enthusiasm about the position and the company. Many qualified candidates get passed over for jobs because they do not convey their interest in the position well

- Concentration Skills
- Organization
- Teamwork
- Detail Oriented
- Time-management Skills

### Potential Salaries for those in Management Analyst Occupations, including business analyst:

Location	Pay Period	2012		
		10%	Median	90%
United States Prof. Flight	Hourly	*Hourly rates not	available for less than	2,080 hours per year.
	Yearly	\$25,520	\$47,410	\$104,980
United States Aviation Management	Hourly	\$13.17	\$26.29	\$33.48
	Yearly	\$27,390	\$58,730	\$72,600

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, Alabama Wage Information

### Common Mistakes Made in the Job Search Process:

- Being uncertain about your job search goals
- Missing opportunities to gain experience
- Ignoring company culture/fit
- Failing to update your resume and cover letter
- Neglecting to prepare for an interview
- Not pursuing the job until you receive an offer

### Professional Flight & Aviation Management Core Competencies:

- Pilots work closely with air traffic controllers and flight dispatchers. As a result, they need to be able to coordinate actions on the basis of the feedback they receive.
- Ability to identify complex problems and figure out appropriate solutions.
- Ability to listen carefully for instructions and speak clearly when conveying information.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics

### Websites:

- [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)
- <http://www.airportnet.org>
- <http://www.nasao.org/>

### Professional Associations:

- Professional Pilots Association
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- American Pilots Association