

# Aviation Technology Career



**Fast Track to an  
Aviation Technology  
Career in  
Los Angeles/  
Orange County**

# Fast Track to an Aviation Tec

There are many exciting careers within the aviation industry. Whether you want to fly an aircraft, perform maintenance and repairs, or coordinate operations on the ground, there is a training program near you.

## Why Choose a Career in Aviation?

The median annual wage across Southern California for careers in aviation ranges from \$45,741 to \$67,669 for maintenance technicians and flight attendants, with pilots earning more than \$104,000 per year. Job growth is expected to be strong over the next several years, with more than 600 jobs opening annually across all aviation occupations in Los Angeles and Orange County. To start, you only need to have a high school diploma, although most employers prefer to hire employees who have completed a post-secondary vocational education or community college aviation training program as well.

## Program Highlights

Our programs offer training for a variety of jobs within the aviation industry. Colleges offering these programs have been certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to train students for professional aviation jobs, and

prepare them to achieve FAA license certifications. Students train with state-of-the-art equipment in upgraded facilities which help ensure success working for airlines or independent companies. Program instructors have many years of real-world aviation experience and a passion for teaching students the skills that will help them excel in their career of choice.

## Qualifications

Students interested in a career in aviation are encouraged to learn about the many career paths and jobs available. Determining the best fit based on your unique skills and interests is an important first step. Many colleges offer aviation career exploration events to help students identify the best fit and to learn about program requirements. In general, strong problem-solving and communication skills are desirable, as well as the ability to make decisions under pressure and to pay close attention to detail.

## Employment Opportunities

### Pilot

- Airline
- Commercial
- Private
- Helicopter
- Military Aviator
- Remote Pilot Operator

### Air Traffic Controller

### Airport Manager

### Aviation Management

### Aircraft & Avionics Equipment Mechanics and Technicians

- Aircraft Powerplant Technician
- Airframe Maintenance Technician
- Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic
- Avionics Technician

### Flight Attendant

### Airfield Operations Specialist

- Aircraft Dispatch
- Aircraft & Aircrew Scheduling
- Airport Operations
- Fixed Base Operations

### Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers

## The Path to Becoming a Pilot

Those seeking a career as a pilot typically get their licenses and ratings in this order:

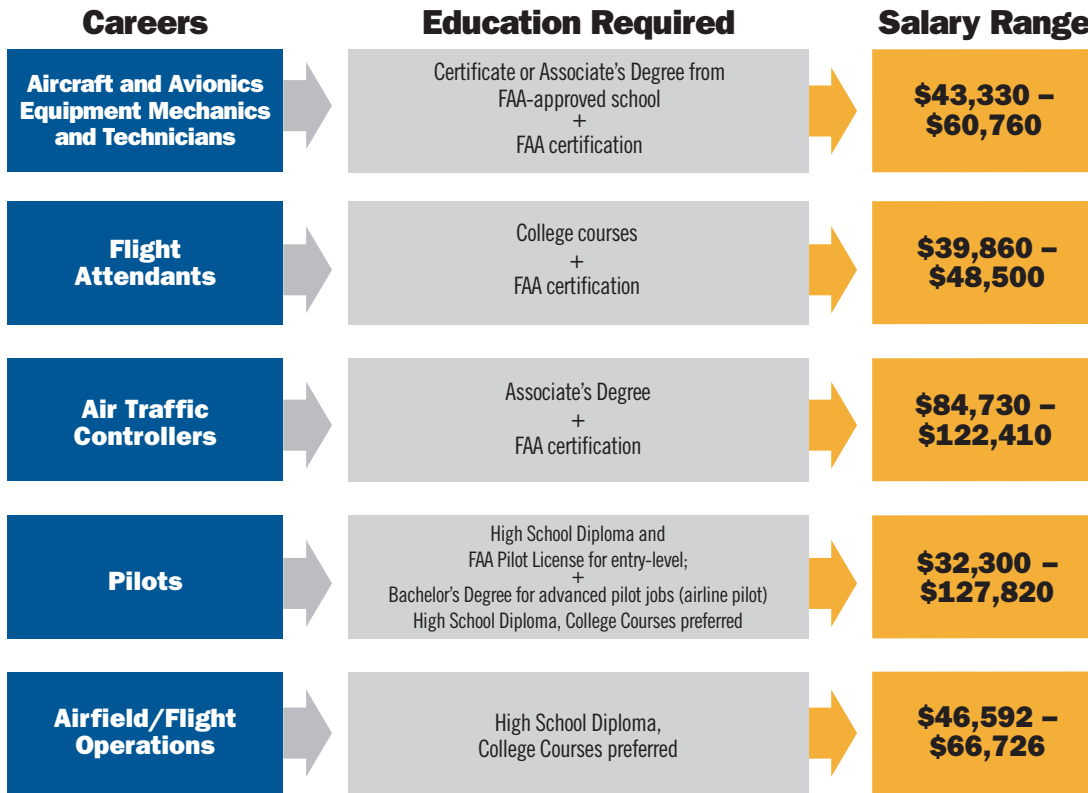
- Student Pilot Certificate
- Private Pilot License
- Instrument Rating
- Commercial Pilot License
- Multi-Engine Rating
- Airline Transport Pilot Certificate



# Technology Career

## Aviation Career Paths

Most employers prefer to hire employees who have completed a vocational or community college automotive technical program.



## Past and Projected Job Openings and Earnings

Aviation Occupations in Los Angeles/Orange County Region	2014 Jobs	2024 Job Growth	2014-2024 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry Hourly	Median Hourly	Experienced Hourly	Median Hourly	Median Annual
Avionics Technicians	750	820	9%	20	\$25.47	\$34.14	\$39.92	\$34.14	\$71,027
Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians	5,280	5,950	15%	193	\$21.67	\$32.45	\$36.38	\$32.45	\$67,507
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	890	950	7%	24	\$16.39	\$21.80	\$31.20	\$21.80	\$45,352
Airfield Operations Specialists	210	240	14.3%	8	\$22.40	\$32.08	\$42.17	\$32.08	\$66,726
Air Traffic Controllers	690	700	1.4%	21	\$43.48	\$66.38	\$77.93	\$66.38	\$138,070
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	3,110	3,600	16%	125				\$55.35	\$115,127
Commercial Pilots	1,260	1,600	26%	64				\$50.09	\$104,196
Flight Attendants	5,720	6,560	14.7%	189				\$23.00	\$45,741

## Skills

### Are You Good At?

- Troubleshooting
- Repairing Things
- Problem Solving
- Reacting Quickly

### Soft Skills For Employment

- Making Decisions Under Pressure
- Communication Skills
- Observational Skills
- Problem Solving
- Quick Reaction Time
- Communication Skills
- Concentration
- Organizational Skills
- Attention To Detail

### Aviation Information Links

Federal Aviation Administration  
[www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)  
[www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)

## Knowledge

### Do You Like?

- Math
- Mechanical Repairs
- Aviation

# Colleges in Los Angeles and Orange County with Aviation Programs

## Cypress College

9200 Valley View St.  
Cypress, CA 90630

### Program/Certifications

- Aviation Certificate I – Private Pilot
- Aviation Certificate II – Instrument Pilot
- Aviation Certificate III – Commercial Pilot
- Aviation Certificate IV – Advanced Pilot
- AS; Commercial Pilot
- AS; UAV/UAS (Drone)
- AS; Aviation Management
- AS; Airline Customer Services
- AS; Flight Attendant
- Airport Operations Certificate

### Job Titles from Program

- Commercial Pilot
- Private Pilot
- Aviation/Airport Manager
- Drone Operator
- Operations Control Agent
- Flight Attendant

### Website

[www.airlinetravelcareers.com/Aviation\\_Travel\\_Careers/Welcome.html](http://www.airlinetravelcareers.com/Aviation_Travel_Careers/Welcome.html)

## Glendale Community College

1500 North Verdugo Rd.  
Glendale, CA 91208

### Program/Certifications

- Aviation Administration
- Flight Attendant (ND)
- Pilot Training

### Job Titles from Program

- Commercial Pilot
- Private Pilot
- Flight Attendant

### Website

[www.glendale.edu/academics/academic-divisions/technology-aviation/aviation](http://www.glendale.edu/academics/academic-divisions/technology-aviation/aviation)

## Mt. San Antonio College

1100 N. Grand Ave.  
Walnut, CA 91789

### Program/Certifications

- Airframe and Aircraft Powerplant Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening)
- AS; Aircraft Powerplant Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening)
- Certificate of Achievement; Airframe Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening)
- AS; Aviation Science (Air Traffic Control)
- AS; Commercial Flight
- Certificate of Achievement; FAA Aircraft Dispatcher

### Job Titles from Program

- Certified Airframe and Powerplant Technician
- Certified Powerplant Technician
- Certified Airframe Technician
- Air Traffic Controller
- Commercial Pilot
- Certified Aircraft Dispatcher

### Websites

[www.mtsac.edu/aircraft-maintenance](http://www.mtsac.edu/aircraft-maintenance)

[www.mtsac.edu/aeronautics](http://www.mtsac.edu/aeronautics)

## Orange Coast College

2701 Fairview Rd.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

### Aviation Maintenance Program/Certifications

- Airframe and Aircraft Powerplant Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening)
- AS; Aircraft Powerplant Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening)
- Certificate of Achievement; Airframe Maintenance Technology (Day and Evening); Avionics (Evening); Helicopter Maintenance (Evening)

### Job Titles from Program

- Certified Airframe and Powerplant Technician
- Certified Powerplant Technician
- Certified Airframe Technician
- Certified Avionics Technician

### Website

[http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/technology/airframe\\_and\\_powerplant\\_technology/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/technology/airframe_and_powerplant_technology/Pages/default.aspx)

### Aviation Science (Piloting) Program/Certifications

- AS; Aviation Science
- Professional Flight
- Flight Operations

### Certificate of Achievement:

- Aviation Science

### Certificate of Specialization:

- Private Pilot
- Instrument Pilot
- Commercial Pilot
- Airline Transport Pilot
- Flight Operations

### Job Titles from Program

- Private Pilot
- Commercial Pilot
- Airline Transport Pilot
- Certified Flight Instructor
- Aircraft Dispatch
- Aircraft and Aircrew Scheduling
- Airport Operations and Fixed Base Operations

### Website

[www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/technology/aviation\\_pilot\\_training/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/technology/aviation_pilot_training/Pages/default.aspx)

## West Los Angeles College

9000 Overland Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90230

### Program/Certifications

- Aviation Maintenance Technician Associate Degree
- Airframe Maintenance Technician Certificate
- Aircraft Powerplant Technician Certificate

### Job Titles from Program

- Aircraft Mechanic
- Aircraft Maintenance Technician

### Website

[www.wlac.edu/Aviation-Technology/index.aspx](http://www.wlac.edu/Aviation-Technology/index.aspx)



**The Clean Energy and Transportation Initiative**

