CALIFORNIA Aerospace CAREERS

California is rich in aerospace history, from the Kelly Johnsons and Howard Hughes pioneers to billionaire, disruptor, Elon Musk and his SpaceX. Southern California in particular is a hotspot for aerospace being the birth place of Naval Aviation and home to Lockheed's Skunk Works, where many of the most secretive and innovative projects were designed and built.

501
Airports in California

200
Million Commercial Passengers a Year

1st
Leads the Nation in Aviation Economic Impact

TOP 5
Ranks in top 5 states for Aircraft, Engines, Parts and Avionics Manufacturing

↗62%
SoCal's employment is up 62% since 2004 in space vehicles & parts and guided missiles

1.1
Million Employed

$106,200
The $106,200 average wage in aerospace is almost 2X the average of all SoCal jobs ($56,600)

San Diego Facts:

196 Aerospace Businesses in San Diego County

$113,667 Average Earnings/Job

20,680 Employed in San Diego County's Aerospace Industry (2017)

↗22% Number of Jobs Expected to Grow by 2022

Company HQs in Southern CA:

- SpaceX
- Virgin Galactic
- Aerojet Rocketdyne
- General Atomics
- ViaSat
- UTC Aerospace Systems

Other Companies in CA:

- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Vulcan Aerospace's Stratolaunch Project
- Boeing Satellite Systems
- Northrop Aerospace Systems

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CALIFORNIA Aerospace CAREERS

Sample Top Jobs Median Salary Info

	Hourly Rate	Yearly Salary
Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians:	$29.87	($62,129.60)
Cargo & Freight Agents:	$21.42	($44,553.60)
Aircraft Structure Surfaces Rigging & Systems Assemblers:	$21.73	($45,198.40)
Commercial Pilots:	$30.61	($63,668.80)
Mechanical Engineering Technicians*:	$30.75	($63,960)
Electrical & Electronics Engineering Technicians*:	$30.78	($63,918.40)
Aerospace Engineers*:	$51.56	($107,244.80)
Aerospace Engineering & Operations Technicians:	$35.92	($74,713)
Airline Pilots, Copilots & Flight Engineers:	$66.31	($137,924.80)

*Requires an associate degree or above

Sample Aviation Related Job Titles and Careers

- Airline Pilots
- Corporate Pilots
- Copilots
- Flight Engineers
- Air Traffic Controllers
- Airfield Operations Specialist
- Flight Attendants
- Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors
- Avionics Technicians
- Aircraft Mechanics and Service Techs
- Composites Technicians
- Aircraft Structure Surfaces
- Rigging and Systems Assemblers
- Gate Agent
- Arline Flight Operations
- Border Patrol Agent
- Airport Security
- Safety Inspector
- Transportation Security
- Administration
- Certified Flight Instructor
- Banner Towing
- Flying Club Management
- Unmanned Aircraft Operations
- Fixed Base Operator Management
- Ag Pilot
- Dispatcher

Specialized Skills:

- Repair
- Hand Tools
- Schematic Diagrams
- Test Equipment
- Scheduling
- Materials Transport
- Machinery
- Quality Assurance and Control
- Calibration
- Aircraft Maintenance
- Electrical Systems
- Knowledge of Federal Aviation Regulations
- Customer Contact
- Scheduling
- Flight Planning
- Multi-Engine Land
- Patient Transportation and Transfer
- Aviation Safety
- Quality Assurance and Control
- Aircraft Maintenance

Soft Skills:

- Troubleshooting
- Communication Skills
- Computer Literacy
- Leadership
- Detail-Oriented
- Problem Solving
- Preventive Maintenance
- Organizational Skills
- Planning
- Building Effective Relationships
- Teamwork/ Collaboration

Local Programs:

San Diego Miramar College

Website:
https://www.sdmiramar.edu/programs/aviation-operations

Description:
The Aviation Operations Program integrates rigorous academic study, providing a strong foundation for leadership positions within the aviation industry, along with unmanned aircraft (drones) and flight simulator training. The program emphasizes a combination of the technical fundamentals of flight, airport operations, human factors, group dynamics, and safety in order to enhance students' development of situational awareness, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

Palomar College

Website:
https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/gis/uav/

Description:
Become a licensed commercial drone pilot at Palomar College and learn how drones are changing the world of mapping, surveying, photography, videography, agriculture, and public safety. Students will be prepared to take the Federal Aviation Administration's Remote Pilot Knowledge Exam, receive hands-on experience operating a variety of drones and sensors, and learn to process and analyze drone data for various industry applications. Students can complete their Certificate in Drone Operations at Palomar College in as little as one year, or obtain their Associate's Degree in Drone Technologies in two years.

Grossmont College

Website:
https://www.grossmont.edu/academics/divisions/ctewd.aspx

Description:
The Grossmont College Drone Technology Program is a workforce training program designed to develop the practical skills and knowledge necessary to safely employ and operate UAS in the workforce. The program will provide instruction in UAS Ground School standards, comprehensive and precise instruction towards the FAA 107 license, and insider knowledge on the industrial applications of UAS from experienced drone professionals currently working in the Drone Industry full-time. Upon completion of the program, graduates are expected to have the necessary practical and industry-relevant skills to be able to legally start working in the industry as a Drone Operator.

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