

JOB DESCRIPTION: Aeronautical Mechanic

A career as an Aeronautical Mechanic

Importance of an Aeronautical Mechanic

In a perfect world, airplanes and other aircraft would run forever without needing special care, but like cars and trucks, airplanes, helicopters, space shuttles, and other airborne modes of transportation need an aeronautical mechanic to keep engines functioning properly. Men and women working as an aeronautical mechanic work closely with aeronautical maintenance crew to fix potential problems before a plane takes off.



Throughout history, dozens of planes, space shuttles, and helicopters have crashed to the ground or into large bodies of water killing or injuring passengers due to mechanical failure. It is the job of aeronautical maintenance crews to closely inspect every inch of an aircraft before it is cleared to load passengers and head for a runway. If there is a problem, the aircraft goes to an aeronautical mechanic for repairs and corrections. An aeronautical mechanic must then have the repair cleared by maintenance before the plane can take off. These teams must work together to ensure delays are not horribly long because it is not acceptable to keep passengers waiting hours or even days for a flight to depart.

Similar to automotive mechanics, an aeronautical mechanic must have a thorough knowledge of all parts of an airplane, helicopter, or other aircraft. An aeronautical mechanic is skilled to repair everything and has had special training to ensure he or she knows what to do. While a college degree is not often required, certification programs that last more than 300 hours is required. Rigorous training is necessary to ensure that an aeronautical mechanic knows how to safely and correctly fix anything.



Aeronautical mechanic students will work alongside a licensed aeronautical mechanic while training for their job. Apprenticeships are common to ensure that students are gaining an exceptional hands-on education in between classes. Those who do not take their studies seriously are often removed from the program due to the important nature of airline repairs because no airline wants to be found guilty of shoddy repair work leading to a crash.

At Civil Air Patrol, the volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, we're helping develop tomorrow's aerospace workforce.

Education and Training Requirements

Mechanics should be agile, work well with their hands and tools, and have good hearing and eyesight. Precision and attention to detail are important.

Employers require that applicants have high school diplomas or the equivalent.

Useful subjects include mathematics, physics, chemistry, industrial drafting, auto and aircraft mechanics, machine shop, metal and wood shop, and welding. Applicants should be able to read and interpret blueprints, diagrams, electricity charts, and instructional manuals.

All aircraft mechanics must obtain government certification. Those with A licenses can work on airplane bodies; P licenses allow them to work on engines (also known as power plants). Some mechanics have both A and P licenses. Mechanics must pass written, oral, and practical tests to earn licenses. They must be at least eighteen years old and know how to read and write English.

Most mechanics study at FAA-approved schools for eighteen to twenty-four months. A growing number of companies require two- or four-year degrees in avionics, aviation technology, or aviation maintenance management from FAA-approved schools. Graduates of those programs are eligible for licensing tests. Mechanics who have not taken such courses must have eighteen months of practical experience before they can take the tests. Applicants who desire both A and P certification must have thirty months of experience working with both the framework and engines of airplanes. Often untrained workers start out as helpers under skilled workers.

Technological advances require mechanics to continue their education during their careers. FAA rules state that certified mechanics must have at least one thousand hours of work experience in any two-year period or they must take refresher courses in aviation technology and repair.

Link to Specific Aeronautical Mechanic Job Types click below:

<http://www.michigan.gov/careers/0,1607,7-170-46398-64477--,00.html>



Courtesy: StateUniversity.com, Michigan.gov, USAFR, USAF

At Civil Air Patrol, the volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, we're helping develop tomorrow's aerospace workforce.