



Career Focus - AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS

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Dear students

If you like being around an aircraft and are good working with your hands on highly technical machinery, consider a career in Aviation maintenance. **Aircraft technicians** specialize in preventive maintenance and service work. Who knows, you might just decide to fly it yourself!

-Martina

WHAT DOES AN AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN DO ?

Aircraft technicians inspect the engine, landing gear, instruments, radios, pressurized sections, accessories, brakes, valves, pumps and other aircraft equipment and perform the necessary maintenance. They work on different types of aircraft, or specialise on one type or one section of the aircraft.

Job Characteristics

- Finding and fixing faulty equipment, in accordance with the pilot's description of the problem.
- Repairing electronic systems and computerised controls.
- Conducting inspections, and repairing and servicing aircraft.
- Ensuring that technical publications that are used are up-to-date.

Avionics is a world that many people are excited about early on. They love airplanes and everything about them. They do not always have what it takes to be a pilot, but they still want to be part of that world. They do share certain characteristics beside the passion:

- **Accurate:** Workers in aircraft maintenance must use precision tools, measure accurately, and perform to exact specifications.
- **Adept:** Aircraft Maintenance workers need the dexterity to manage and manipulate parts and tools with fingers and hands.
- **Agile (Flexible):** Aircraft Maintenance employees will climb ladders, stretch, reach, and squeeze into narrow spots.
- **Alert:** Candidates have a knack for observing and recognizing problems, breaking down mechanical parts, and repairing problems.
- **Analytic:** Aircraft Maintenance workers are expected to diagnose problems, evaluate options, and implement solutions.

Basically, you need interest and a high degree of mechanical aptitude, but due to advances in technology and the complexity of aircraft systems, it's necessary for aircraft maintenance technicians to take training courses throughout their careers. The ongoing training required to maintain certification ensures that technicians' knowledge remains up-to-date.

REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

The minimum requirement in Namibia is a **HIGCSE/NSSCH/IGCSE/NSSCO** Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, or a NTS 3 technical diploma. A Grade 11 certificate with Mathematics, or a N2 certificate with Mathematics is required for studies in South Africa.

Compulsory subject

NO Compulsory subjects required

Recommended subjects

Mathematics (South Africa)

Mathematics, a Science subject and English (Namibia)

Tertiary Education

Trainee aircraft technicians in Namibia undergo an apprenticeship period of three-and-a-half years during which they receive both theoretical and practical training in aircraft repair and maintenance. Once this training has been successfully completed, they are allowed to sit for examinations for their DCA licences, which enables them to sign out aircraft and aircraft equipment. **The Aviation Centre** offer practical training, interested students can contact them at T +264 (61) 22 06 48+264 (61) 22 06 48

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Once candidates are licensed as aircraft technicians, and they have gained the necessary working experience (\pm three years) they can be promoted to the position of airworthiness inspector, or aircraft technician. Candidates who have completed a B. Sc. degree in **Aeronautical Engineering**, and who have gained the necessary working experience, can be considered for promotion positions. In South Africa applicants can complete a relevant national diploma, and do their practical and in-service training at any large airport.

Personality

The work of an aircraft technician can be extremely stressful due to time pressures. Aircraft technicians should thus be able to work well under pressure and deliver work of high quality. Prospective candidates should be safety-conscious, and have a sense of responsibility and good organising skills.

Work Opportunities

Aircraft technicians are employed by Air Namibia, the Civil Aviation Department (MWTC), and other aviation companies. Work prospects for the aircraft technicians are favourable.



POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS FOR AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS

Avionics technicians may begin their careers as aircraft mechanics and service technicians. As aircraft mechanics and service technicians gain experience, they may study independently, attend formal classes, or otherwise choose to pursue additional certifications that grant privileges to work on specialized flight instruments. Eventually, they may become dedicated aircraft technicians who work exclusively on flight instruments.

Advancement:

As aircraft mechanics gain experience, they may advance to lead mechanic, lead inspector, or shop supervisor. Opportunities are best for those who have an inspection authorization (IA). Many specialist certifications are available that allow mechanics to do a wider variety of repairs and alterations.

Technicians / Mechanics with broad experience in maintenance and repair might become inspectors or examiners.

Additional business and management training may help aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians open their own maintenance facility.

References : Namibia Careers (e-campus) ; aviation maintenance



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