



# AeroGuard

FLIGHT TRAINING CENTER



Setting a Higher  
Standard

.....  
Safety. Quality. Success.





Setting a Higher Standard  
Safety. Quality. Success.

## About AeroGuard

AeroGuard Flight Training Center has a long history of training domestic and international airline pilots, graduating over **8,000 cadets**. Through professionally focused flight training and a high-quality curriculum, AeroGuard has become a leader in the industry and is recognized for **Setting a Higher Standard**.



AeroGuard Flight training Center, founded in 2000, offers student pilots from all over the world the chance to learn to fly in ideal flight training conditions and airspace complexity.

Over these 25 years of history, AeroGuard has been the partner of choice for many international airlines, sending their future pilots to train at one of our locations, before returning as a commercial airline pilot.

In 2016, AeroGuard became a strategic partner of SkyWest Airlines, the largest U.S. Regional Airline, offering domestic students a direct path to becoming an Airline Pilot through our Pilot Pathway Program. Within this alliance, SkyWest provides guidance on curriculum and training techniques, while AeroGuard ensures pilots become highly skilled and prepared for the commercial airlines.

With accelerated flight training and degree program options, AeroGuard is the flight training center of choice for professionally focused aviators who are seeking a direct path to the airlines. AeroGuard offers a variety of routes for flight training - to the right is an overview of what types of training are offered at our facilities.

### Accelerated Flight Training:

For students looking to start their career as quickly as possible, dedicated and accelerated flight training allows students to commit fully to completing their ratings as quickly as possible.

### Degree Programs:

By combining AeroGuard's same high-quality training with one of our university degree programs, students can further expand their education and be eligible for a reduced hours R-ATP.

### International Programs:

Our international airline partnerships not only instill the high quality, professional structure and training environment AeroGuard is known for, but also enable domestic student graduates to become instructors. By training others and building their flight time to airline hiring minimums, AeroGuard helps every student establish the skills and experience they need for their future pilot careers.

AeroGuard offers a clear path for all students to reach their dream career and become a professional airline pilot. From our established history, airline modeled program structure, mutually beneficial partnership with SkyWest, and optimal training locations, AeroGuard graduates have a strong foundation for long and successful careers.



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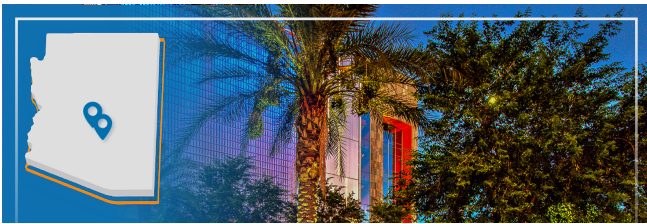
# Training Locations

AeroGuard has three, optimally located campuses for you to choose from! Location also plays an essential role to the training a pilot receives - training in a location with adverse weather could cause delays and interruptions in training. Ultimately leading to loss of retention in knowledge and skill. AeroGuard's locations have been hand-picked to ensure climates are challenging yet offer continuous training to allow for higher retention in knowledge and skills.



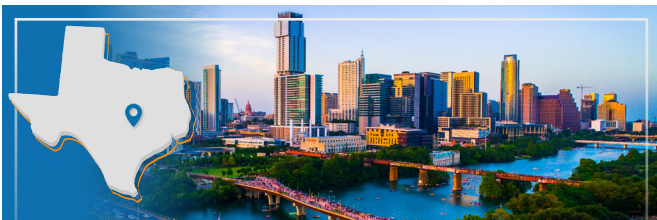
## Phoenix, AZ **Deer Valley Airport (DVT)**

With over 350 days of flying weather a year, plus with its local diverse airspace featuring a mix of complexity and local airport approaches, Deer Valley Airport in Phoenix, Arizona offers the ideal conditions from first learning how to fly, to mastering commercial pilot procedures. When not flying, students are within one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. with year-round sun and activities to match.



## Chandler, AZ **Chandler Municipal Airport (CHD)**

Chandler Municipal Airport, Arizona, located 20 miles Southwest of Phoenix, offers the same ideal climate for learning to fly, with 350 days of flying weather plus local airports offering a range of approaches and procedures. This location in Chandler is convenient for residents of the south Phoenix valley all the way to Tucson, Arizona.



## Austin, TX **Georgetown Municipal Airport (GTU)**

Austin, Texas, is in an incredible city, known for its exceptional music scene, great food, vibrant culture, and with a median age of just 31 is one of the youngest cities in the nation. At AeroGuard's campus to the north of Austin at Georgetown Municipal Airport, students also benefit from complex airspace, designated training areas and diverse weather experience.

Regardless of which location you choose to train out of you'll have focused and continuous training. Phoenix, Chandler, and Austin offer ample flying days a year with a variety of airspace and weather patterns to keep you challenged. A higher number of flying days creates additional opportunities for you to develop into a knowledgeable and skilled pilot.



## Student Housing & Accommodations

Student Housing is available at our Phoenix, Arizona and Austin, Texas campuses for our Pilot Pathway Program. This housing is partially furnished, dormitory style, close to campus and with other AeroGuard students. Amenities may vary by location, but include swimming pools, fitness center, wireless internet and more. Students using our financing partners may finance this cost of accommodation, or add a stipend, within their loan to cover other off-campus housing.







Setting a Higher Standard  
Safety. Quality. Success.

## Why AeroGuard?

When you select a flight training center, there are many factors to consider. However, quality and safety should be at the forefront of your mind when deciding which training is best for you.

At **AeroGuard Flight Training Center** we are dedicated to building a community of highly trained pilots, in a safety first environment, who will exceed FAA standards and promote continual improvement, establishing long and successful careers for themselves.



## Quality of Training

AeroGuard offers a first-class training environment that creates professional pilots at an accelerated rate through a fully optimized curriculum built on feedback from airlines, instructors, and education professionals. Some of the key factors in the quality of your training include:

- **Custom, In-House Developed Curriculum:** for both Part 141 and 61 courses.
- **Low Student To Instructor Ratios**
- **Instructor Standardization:** Ensure the same quality, policies and procedures.
- **Training Oversight:** Flight Instructors are mentored by Training Managers who report to Team Leaders providing oversight.
- **Standardized AOM/GOM:** AeroGuard's General and Aircraft Operating Manuals ensure consistent standards, procedures, quality, and safety.
- **Progressive Training:** Moving from standardized round gauge aircraft to G1000 cockpits and single engines to twin aircraft.
- **Stage Checks:** Internal run-through of your FAA checkride to prepare you for the real thing.
- **Check Airman Program:** Modeled after SkyWest and other commercial airlines provides instructor feedback and improves training processes.
- **Dispatch Procedures:** Professional check in and out procedures with our dispatching team, plus in-flight tracking.

## CLEAR PATH

With AeroGuard's Pilot Pathway Program there is a clear path to your future career - from **Student**, to **Instructor**, to **Airline hire eligible**.



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## The AeroGuard Way

Understanding that safety and quality are top priority is critical when picking a flight school. However, it is also important to determine if the training environment is a good fit for you. At AeroGuard, from the first day at orientation to the moment you leave for the airlines, you will be surrounded by like-minded, driven individuals. You will learn alongside these fellow students and instructors as you each work toward the same goal and future career.

## Student Experience

A unique aspect of AeroGuard is the community that you join when you begin your training. By training in a professional environment you will surround yourself with others on the same path.

- **Shared Experience:** Flight training can be challenging, but at AeroGuard you're surrounded by others who understand exactly what you're going through.
- **Learning From Others:** Not only do you have a dedicated Instructor Pilot who is invested in your training, you also have a team of fellow aviators who are willing to help in any way. Everyone has different strengths and weaknesses, so there is a constant opportunity to learn from those around you and to share your knowledge as well.
- **Support And Encouragement:** You will likely face struggles at some point in your training, but it is inevitable that you will ALWAYS be met with a kind word and encouragement from your peers. We are a community that celebrates success and one that encourages during times of discouragement.
- **Networking:** As you make friendships on your aviation path, you build connections which may serve you in a positive way. Building a large community of aviators who support each other has the potential to open many doors.



## Safety:

AeroGuard has made a promise in **Setting a Higher Standard** in everything we do and safety is no exception. Safety is the pinnacle operating principle when it comes to aviation, and at AeroGuard it is our top priority. We pride ourselves on several unique safety measures which include:

- **A Safety Management System (SMS):** based on an operating excellence and continuous improvement model that uses statistical process control.
- **Duty CFI:** A quality control check that monitors the safety and regulatory compliance of students conducting solo flights. Think of them as, your co-pilot on the ground!
- **Expert Maintenance:** Our 24-hour on-site maintenance team ensures that planes are in top-notch shape prior to flight, keeping all our students and instructors safe. This professional and expert staff has been recognized by the FAA with the **FAA Diamond Award of Excellence** for 5 consecutive years.
- **Safety Stop Program:** a company policy encouraging all students and company personnel to put a "STOP" to operations whenever a risk to safety is observed.
- **"Just Culture":** an all-employee involvement policy in which voluntary reporting of safety concerns, deviations, and inappropriate conduct are strongly encouraged from everyone.



# Pilot Pathway Program

Our **Pilot Pathway Program** is designed specifically to get you to the airlines as efficiently, and as safely, as possible.



## Program Structure:

At AeroGuard, our mission is to train students to become future professional airline pilots, armed with the skills, training, and experience they require for long and successful careers. Our program curriculum, instruction, culture, policies and procedures, and more have all been curated and modeled to offer students high-quality, career-focused pilot training.

By learning in this training environment, AeroGuard pilots build a strong foundation for the future career they will have as a professional aviator. No prior aviation experience is necessary to join the program, and you'll be ready for the domestic U.S. commercial airlines in just **2.5 years**.

Through **two distinct stages** of the Pilot Pathway Program, we get our students airline ready in the most efficient way possible with a safety first mindset.

## Stage 1

### Pilot Training: 12-18 Months

In Stage 1 Student Pilots will receive all the training and support necessary to set them up for a successful career in aviation. This stage of training sets the foundation for their career as they build the skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence necessary to become a pilot with an airline.

AeroGuard students in the program receive high-quality training from a carefully optimized curriculum that is focused on establishing core knowledge and fundamentals of success - not just passing FAA checkrides, but exceeding their standards. This stage of training includes the following 7 FAA ratings and certifications:

Private Pilot License

Instrument Rating

Commercial Single-Engine

Commercial Multi-Engine

Certified Flight Instructor

Certified Flight Instructor Instrument

Multi-Engine Instructor



## Stage 2

### Flight Instructor: 14 – 18 Months

After completing Stage 1 of the Pilot Pathway Program, AeroGuard students graduate as fully qualified Commercial Pilots, as well as fully rated Flight Instructors with their CFI, CFII and MEI certifications, which opens a range of employment opportunities.

One of these opportunities will be employment at AeroGuard as a Flight Instructor in Stage 2 where they will train the next generation of students. In this stage of training, pilots will build the experience and flight hours, typically 1500 hours, required to be eligible for a career at the airlines.

AeroGuard instructors have the opportunity to train pilots for the world's leading airlines, not only building their flight hours, but gaining experience that will stand out to hiring airlines.

Due to the accelerated nature of the Pilot Pathway Program, instructors can expect to complete Phase 2 and be eligible for the airlines with their 1,500 hours after 14-18 months.



## International Training and Instruction

In addition to our U.S. Pilot Pathway Program, AeroGuard is also a flight training destination for **world-class airlines** and institutions from around the world. These International programs bring a continual stream of students to AeroGuard that require high-quality instruction. Due to this, we intend to hire all of our students as instructors upon graduation to train both U.S. and International students.



### Stage 1

#### Student

7 FAA Rating & Certificates



### Stage 2

#### Instructor

Build Flight Experience  
to 1500 hours



### Stage 3

#### Professional Airline Pilot

Guaranteed First Officer  
Interview

## Moving Forward as an AeroGuard Alumni

After successful completion of Stages 1 and 2, AeroGuard pilots are now ready to begin a long and successful career at the airlines! Armed with the skills and experience they need and the utmost confidence in themselves and their training, our graduates are prepared for their Guaranteed Final Interview for First Officer at SkyWest Airlines.

\*Our students are more than prepared for the transition to professional pilot as the Pilot Pathway Program is specifically created and aligned with the operating procedures and culture of top domestic airlines. AeroGuard's exceptional level of training teaches our students to be the best of the best, placing them in a position to excel for the rest of their career as the most qualified and prepared future pilots entering the industry.

*\*During hiring periods.*





# Pathway Program Admissions Process

## Pilot Pathway Program

The AeroGuard Pathway Program is designed to train future **professional airline pilots**, so we maintain higher requirements for admission than what is necessary for traditional flight training. These requirements are in place not only to best ensure success in the program, but also so that students can be confident in their training and build the skills they need to become talented pilots.

### Pathway Admissions Requirements

- Must be at least 17.5 Years Old
- Ability to obtain a U.S. Passport, with the legal right to work in the United States
- Obtain a First-Class Airman's Medical Certificate
- Pass an Aptitude Assessment and Acceptance Interview
- Pass a Criminal Background Check
- Possess a High School Diploma or GED

### Enrollment Process

Assuming that candidates are confident that they meet the above criteria, they would work directly with a dedicated AeroGuard Enrollment Advisor who will aid in the Enrollment Process, consisting of several important steps to ensure students are ready for flight training and building their future career.



# Enrollment Steps:

Your AeroGuard Enrollment Advisor will walk you through the following enrollment steps:

## 1 Obtaining a First Class Medical

A First Class Medical is issued following a medical exam by an FAA-designated Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) and authorizes a student for flight. Flight training only requires a Third-Class Medical but obtaining a First-Class Medical (which is required for Airline pilots) prior to enrollment helps to ensure the career is a viable path given your medical background. Your Enrollment Advisor will help you to find a local AME in your area and verify you have the correct documentation required for the exam.

## 2 Program Financing

Students may choose to pay directly for their training within the Pathway Program or to finance the cost with one of AeroGuard's lending partners. Your Enrollment Advisor can help you navigate through your options and any necessary applications. Confirming your financing before the start of training ensures there are no breaks during the program, keeping you flying and progressing towards graduation.

## 3 Aptitude Assessment

The next step in the enrollment process is to complete an online Aptitude Assessment. This assessment aims to test a range of candidates' skills, including spatial reasoning, reaction speeds, mathematics, and other cognitive skills. This test cannot be studied for, but helps to identify an individual's natural skillset and gives our Flight Training team an understanding of a potential student's abilities prior to joining AeroGuard. It's important that you take your time to complete this assessment and ensure you're in a comfortable and quiet environment to focus.

## 4 Acceptance Interview

Following completion and success within all other steps, an interview will be arranged for the future student with a member of the Flight Training team. Passing this interview is necessary to be accepted into the AeroGuard Pathway Program just as it is necessary to pass an interview to be hired at the airlines, so best foot forward!







## Pilot Pathway Program Financing

### Tuition

AeroGuard's **Pilot Pathway Program** is career-focused and built to provide our students with a direct path to fly for the airlines. During the admissions process you will work together with your Enrollment Advisor to understand the program quote and cost. If you have prior flight time and experience, a customized program quote can be provided.

At AeroGuard, you pay hourly for the resources you use with transparent pricing throughout. This ensures you will not be blindsided by additional, hidden costs, and that the quality of instruction received is top tier. Included in this instruction is:

- Necessary Flight Time per FAA Minimums and course expectations
- Initial Checkride Fees
- Initial FAA Knowledge Test Fees
- Simulator Time
- Digital Study Guides & Flight Applications\*

If you choose to use one of AeroGuard's loan partners, your quote will also include an additional 'Reserve'. This reserve is utilized if you require any additional costs during your training such as additional flight time and retaking checkrides.

**Students will also be required to have the following items when they start flight training:**

- An iPad capable of running the latest iOS
- An Aviation Headset
- Uniform: White pilot shirt with black slacks, black shoes, & black tie
- Logbook & Foggles or Hood for Instrument Rating Training
- Other training accessories as preferred (Flight Bag, Backpack, Yoke Mounts, Seat Pillows, Knee Boards, etc)



### TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

With AeroGuard's partner SkyWest Airlines, students enrolled in our Pilot Pathway Program have a unique opportunity to set themselves up for success in their future pilot careers.

Graduates will not only receive a **Guaranteed Final Interview** with SkyWest Airlines as a First Officer, but also receive a tuition reimbursement of **\$17,500** upon completion of your I.O.E.

# Financing

While some students choose to pay directly for their training, AeroGuard aims to make flight training more accessible by partnering with loan providers to give students several payment options. This ensures you can establish a consistent payment plan and continue progressing through flight school without having to take any breaks or delay your training.

Within the Pilot Pathway Program, AeroGuard has partnered with three financial institutions to provide lending options to qualified students. These loan options can cover not only the cost of training, but also housing and living stipends to support students enrolled in the program.

Specific loan terms may vary between lenders, but overall can provide up to full financing options with deferred and reduced payments until you reach the airlines. Most programs offer no penalty for early repayment and no loan payments required until you complete training. Talk to an enrollment advisor to learn more, or research your specific options.



## VA Benefits for Flight School

AeroGuard's Arizona campuses are VA approved, meaning some of your flight school costs may be paid for by the VA. If you're a Veteran, it's important to know that there are specific benefits that you can take advantage of when it comes to funding flight school. Knowing what GI Bill you have will determine how much of your flight training could be covered by the VA.

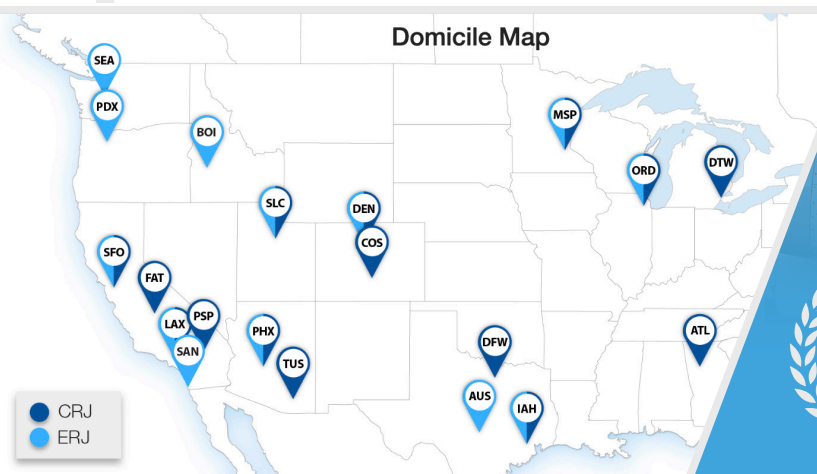
- **Post 9/11 GI Bill:** Specific maximum benefits for each academic year (August 1st to July 31st)
- **Montgomery GI Bill:** You could have up to 60% of your approved flight training charges covered

Flight training must be within VA and FAA Approved 141 courses, and cannot be applied to your Private Pilot License training. Talk to your Enrollment Advisor to learn more about how your VA Benefits can be applied to training within our Pilot Pathway program and to understand the financial requirements.



## The AeroGuard and SkyWest Airlines Partnership

AeroGuard and SkyWest share a strategic partnership built on a mutual need for AeroGuard graduates to move on to positions with the leading airlines in the U.S., and for SkyWest to continue to hire the best pilots available. Through this strategic partnership, which started in 2016, AeroGuard has received on-going guidance on the curriculum and training from SkyWest, which AeroGuard uses to ensure their pilots become highly skilled and suitably prepared for the commercial airlines with long, successful careers ahead of them. With the resulting commercial standards, check airmen program, and SkyWest trained flight instruction management teams, international airline quality is built directly into AeroGuard training.



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### SkyWest's Operational Excellence

SkyWest is the largest regional airline in the country with over 14,000 aviation professionals operating more than 1,900 daily flights. SkyWest Airlines connects more than 40 million passengers annually to 255 destinations across North America. SkyWest operates in partnership with Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, American Airlines, and Alaska Airlines and has a fleet of nearly 500 aircraft. SkyWest operates 20 different domiciles with a mixture of CRJ and ERJ aircraft.

### The SkyWest Culture

Built on teamwork, professionalism, safety, and stability, SkyWest offers more than just a job to their pilots and employees. When you fly with SkyWest, you fly with family. SkyWest has a constant focus on providing the best quality of life and professional development opportunities for their pilots which is why they're an industry leader when it comes to pilot pay and benefits. SkyWest was named to the **Forbes America's Best Employers 2021** list, and once again named a **Best Place to Work in 2021**, a Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award. SkyWest is among the top 50 companies named on that list.

# Earn Seniority While Training



## SkyWest Cadet Benefits

The SkyWest Pilot Pathway Program provides a direct path for pilots to become a First Officer with SkyWest Airlines. The SkyWest Pilot Pathway Program allows students and instructors to earn company seniority while at an AeroGuard campus before even joining SkyWest, giving them benefits over the rest of their hiring class. Each pilot is individually mentored by SkyWest Pilots and has the opportunity to participate in SkyWest recruiting events and outreach programs during their training.

### Take Control of Your Career

SkyWest pilots are top recruits by every major airline in the industry. Why limit yourself to just one airline, or wait your turn for a flow agreement? Take control of your career, with a pathway that matches your goals.

- ✓ Your company seniority activated immediately.
- ✓ Have a regular connection with SkyWest Mentor.
- ✓ A guaranteed final interview for a First Officer position at SkyWest during hiring periods.
- ✓ Enhanced seniority at ground school.



SkyWest Pilots are top recruits by every major airline in the industry. **Why limit yourself to just one?**



\*Alaska Airlines includes pilots hired by Virgin America

source: skywest.com/careers

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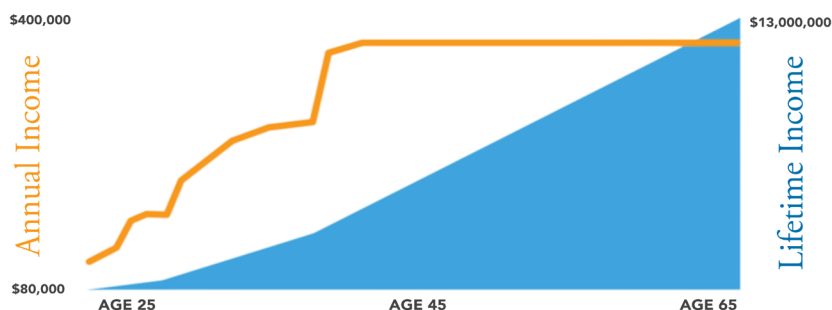




## Pilot Demand

One way to ensure a successful career is to choose one that is consistently in need, and one that is in high demand. The air travel industry is crucial to the United States economy and therefore will always be a promising career opportunity. According to Boeing, more than 649,000 commercial pilots will be needed worldwide by the year 2040. In the U.S. alone, there are over 80,000 pilots who will retire within the next 20 years that will need to be replaced, and another 126,000 will be needed just to cover the industry growth.

Commercial Airline Pilot Income Projection



## » Income Potential

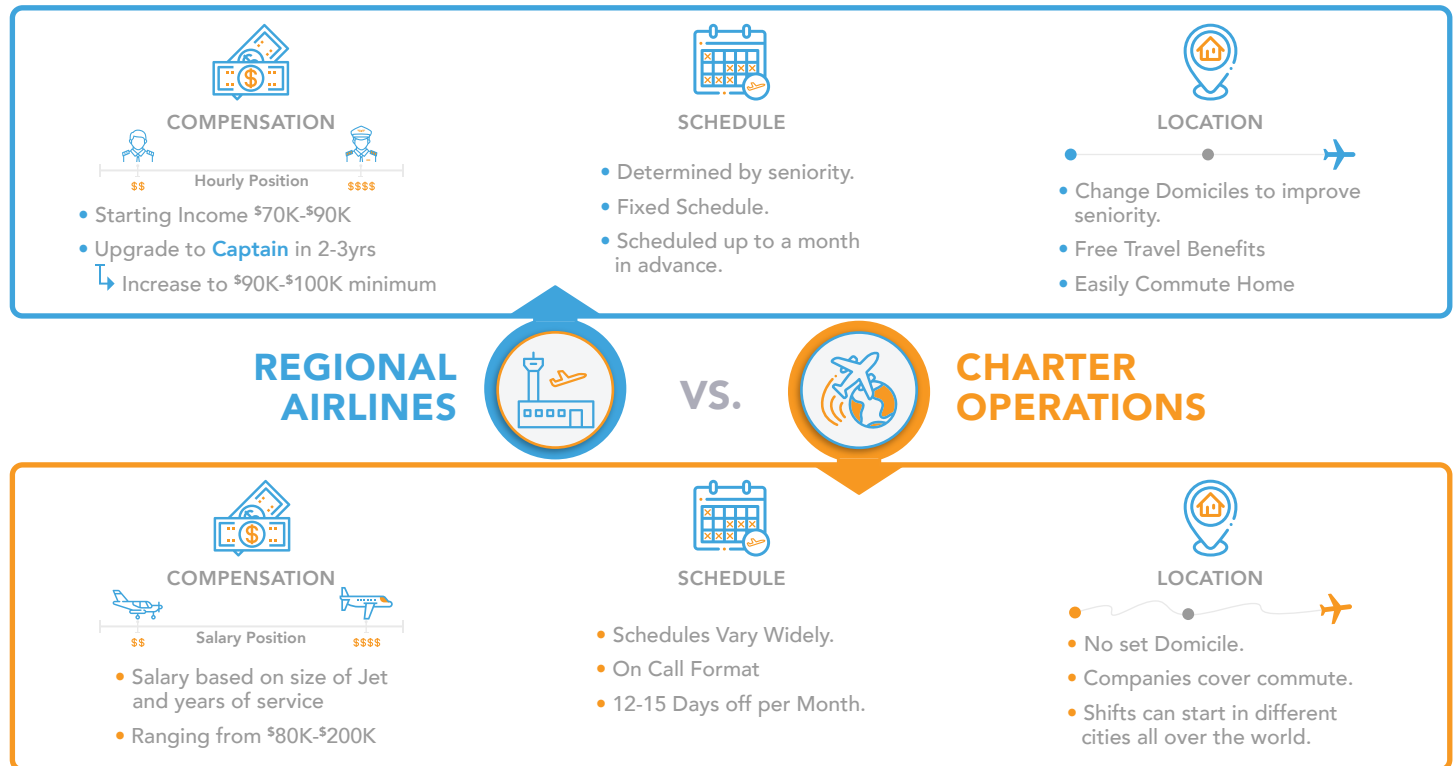
Students and parents can rest assured, pilots will receive a great return on their investment in their education. Becoming a pilot can be a very lucrative career. The median salary for Airline Pilots, Copilots and Flight Engineers in 2022 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics was more than **\$211,000**.

Of course, the more experienced and versatile the pilot, the higher the earnings. Data suggests a pilot can make upwards of **\$13 million** over the course of their lifetime.

As with many careers, it depends on the determination, work ethic and tenacity of each pilot, but the following chart shows the income growth potential of a pilot over time according to salary data for Delta Air Lines in 2023. The more hours you fly, the higher your salary!

# Regional Airline Vs. Charter Operations

Once a pilot meets the aeronautical experience requirements for an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, they can either continue with their current role or transition to a larger operation. Traditionally, the best paying pilot careers are at the airlines which is why many aviators choose to continue down that path. Alternatively, larger charter operations have various scheduling and pay differences that some aviators may prefer over the lifestyle at the airlines.



## Major Airlines and Cargo Operators

When people think pilot career, they generally think of working for major carriers like United, Delta, Southwest, UPS, or Fedex. This is because these are generally the highest paying careers with the most flexible schedules. These operations typically run similar to the regional airlines, but they fly much larger jets. By flying larger jets, pilots are better compensated and with better work life balance.



### PAY

The range varies significantly based on seniority and aircraft but can be anywhere from \$90k-150k within the first 5 years and can increase to upwards of \$350k.

### SCHEDULE

Pilots generally fly 3-4 day trips with around 12-15 days off per month. In the largest jets the trips are usually international and transoceanic.

### LOCATION

Pilots are assigned to domiciles which are the bases from which flight trips begin and end. Airline pilots have travel benefits and therefore can fly for free so many choose to live elsewhere and commute to their assigned domiciles.



## Types of Flight Schools

There are several routes an individual can take to launch their commercial airline career, and a variety of flight schools to attend. With the right knowledge, students will be able to determine which flight training program will work best for them and their aspirations.

### » Accelerated Flight School

This category of Flight School is an Accelerated Flight School, which as the name suggests does training at an accelerated rate, and typically offers the fastest route to a career with the airlines. Accelerated flight training provides students with a full-time, structured schedule focused specifically on flight training. It can be intensive and strict, so students must be prepared and dedicated to do well in this kind of environment. By avoiding typical semesters, other college workload, or working around individual schedules, students instead focus just on flight training to get it completed as quickly as possible. A popular alternative to the degree path, this program allows students to then apply to a university using their training as college credit and complete their degree online while already working as a Flight Instructor or Regional Airline pilot. This path can give the benefits of a degree, while maintaining a fast pace towards a career.

### Aviation Degree Program

Historically, most airlines required a bachelor's degree from their pilots, meaning that Aviation Degree Programs were a common path to provide both the flight qualification, and act as credit to an accompanying degree. However, with the forecasted pilot demand and shortage predicted by Boeing over the next 20 years, many airlines no longer require a degree to start your career. Students who complete an Aviation Degree Program, may receive a reduction in required flight hours to earn the Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certification. The standard 1,500 hours can be reduced to 1,000 flight hours with a bachelor's degree and 1,250 with an associate degree. However, the tradeoff for most students is the speed of their flight training, falling into typical semester periods, and taking 4 years to complete, before building flight time experience. One advantage of flight training within a Degree Program is that it enables a student to take advantage of

- Federal Financial Aid to cover the costs of this flight training within the course.

### Pay-As-You-Go Flight School

A Pay-As-You-Go Flight School is one in which the student effectively rents a plane, and an instructor and is able to pay, and manage their schedule accordingly. With this type of flight school, you can train at your own pace and around your work schedule, which can be very convenient. However, for those looking to pursue a career in aviation it can prove to be less than ideal and take longer to progress. Not having consistency in your training could lead to a lengthy timeline to finish, leaving room for forgetfulness and possibly the need for retraining, and adding further costs. Also, depending on the other students at the school, you may be more alone in your career aspirations, having fewer people to study with or progress at the same speed.

# Impact on Career Earnings, Pay and Seniority

Airlines operate on a system based on seniority, or a “rank” for pilot scheduling as well as companywide Human Resources. Pilots who’ve been employed with an airline the longest have the highest seniority, while newly hired pilots have the lowest. Seniority affects scheduling, pay, quality of life and career advancement. Each of these flight training routes have an effect on seniority.

## Accelerated Program

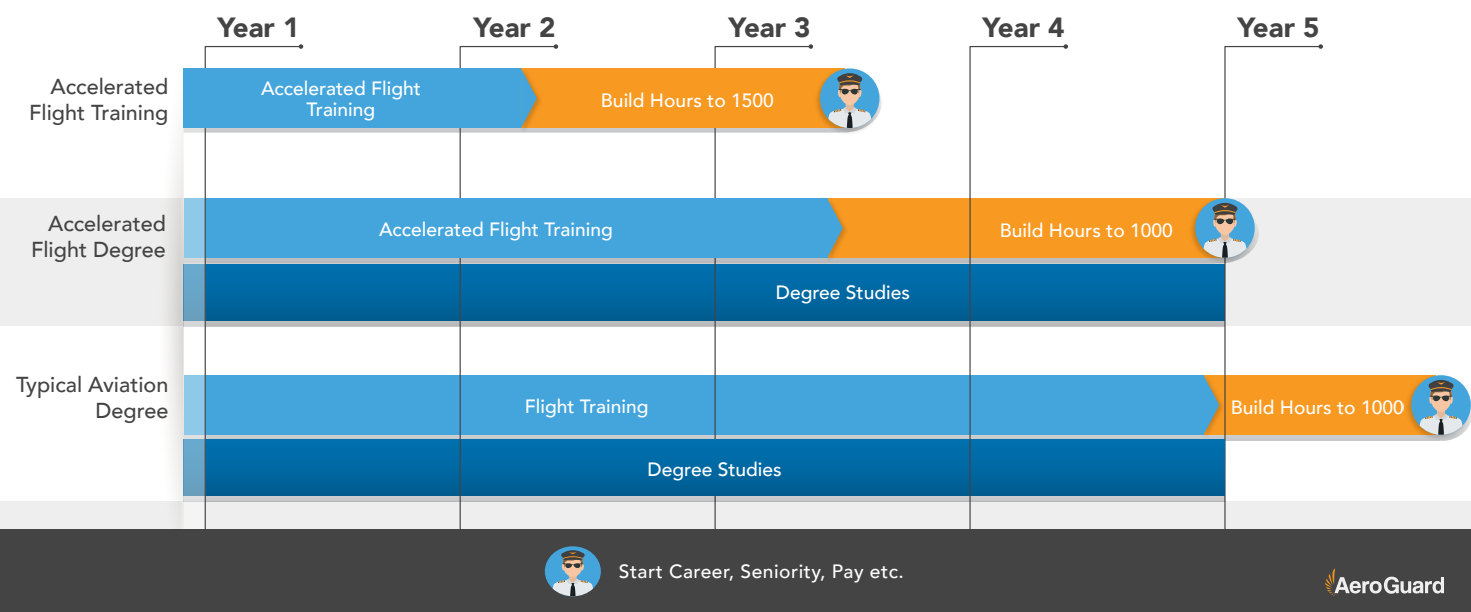
To reap the benefits of pilot seniority, you’ll want to begin training as quickly as possible. A career-track accelerated flight program can get you to the airlines sooner, so you’ll be able to increase your rank faster than if you went the pay-as-you-go or aviation degree route. Not only that, but seniority can also be powerful at the end of your career when your earning power is its highest, so each year earlier to the airlines can increase total career earnings significantly.

## Aviation Degree

While it may seem as though obtaining an R-ATP with a degree is quicker due to the lower hour requirements at 1000 or 1250 hours, it actually takes twice as long as students have to graduate either an Associate’s or Bachelor’s Degree. The lesser amount of flight hours might seem like a quicker path, but this tradeoff is not equal, as students are often compromising a handful of months of flight hours they amass as a salaried CFI for two more years of degree studying. This not only adds time for them to start their career, but also costs more money and lowers their airline seniority.

## Pay-As-You-Go Training

A pay-as-you-go training program may take longer to complete as it works around a students’ schedule and availability, it can have a negative impact on getting to an airline and building seniority. The longer it takes for you to finish your training, the lower seniority you will have at the airline throughout your career.





# Paths to Becoming a Pilot

For many years, there has been a common misconception that the only way to become a commercial pilot was to go through the military. However, there are other ways to establish this successful career. Civilian training options are available for those who wish to start a career as a professional pilot. Each of these paths require different levels of commitment, requirements, and experience, but can both lead to working for a Major Airline Carrier.

## » Civilian Training

When entering the civilian aviator route, the first step is flight training. Some of the different options are:

- **Accelerated Flight School:** Like AeroGuard Flight Training Center, these flight schools offer full-time, fast-paced, structured flight training that will allow students to receive all their initial certifications and ratings in as little as 12 months. This will be their fastest way to an airline.
- **Traditional Flight School:** They're a Pay As You Go, relationship where students rent a plane and flight instructor as needed to complete their various licenses and certifications on their own schedule.
- **Aviation Degree:** Students take this path by attending college or university to get an aviation related degree while they do their flight training in "lab" style classes. Some larger universities have their own planes and can train on-site while others may send students to an affiliate flight school.

Once a student receives their commercial ratings and certifications, the next step is to gain an entry-level job to gain the 1500 hours required to get their ATP certificate (*Note: This requirement is reduced to 1000 or 1250 hours for those with approved aviation degrees*).

### Some of these jobs include:

- Flight Instruction
- Charter Operations
- Air Ambulance Pilots
- Cargo Pilots

Once students have gained their 1500 hours and ATP certificate, they can progress their career to a regional airline as a first officer. Some first officers move on to captain in as little as 2-3 years. Additionally, in as little as 5 years with a regional airline, they are able to move on to a first officer position at a major airline carrier.

## Military Training

While joining the military is a great option, becoming a military aviator is one of the most challenging ways to become a professional pilot. Some of the barriers that can come with becoming a military fixed-wing aviator are:

- Stricter medical and physical standards for entry
- Requires a bachelor's degree to begin training
- Must graduate from basic officer commissioning programs prior to pilot training
- Completion of introductory and specialized training based on military branch
- Passing aptitude test with approximately 30% pass rate

After joining the military, pilots are committed to 8 years of service. Due to their significant amount of experience, military aviators have the opportunity to transition directly to an airline after they've served.





## TRAINING

Traditional Flight School



Aviation Degree



Accelerated Flight School



Military Training



## EXPERIENCE

Flight Instruction



Charter Pilot



Air Ambulance



Cargo Operations



## AIRLINE TRANSPORT

Regional Airline Pilot



Charter Jet Pilot



## MAJOR AIRLINE

Major Airline Pilot



# AIRPORT







## Setting a Higher Standard

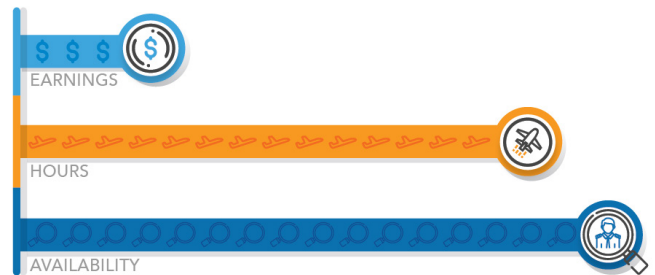
Safety. Quality. Success.

# Building Flight Experience

All airline operations and most larger jet operations require a pilot to meet certain aeronautical experience requirements before being hired. Most of the time that "magic number" is 1500 hours of flight time. After a pilot has completed their initial flight training, there are a number of ways they can gain this experience. Pilots generally view this next step as their "internship" before moving on to an airline just as medical students would complete a residency before being able to continue on with their career.

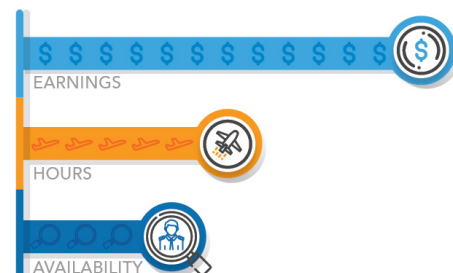
## Flight Instruction

Becoming a flight instructor is the most common option to gain flight experience as it's a job that is generally readily available and requires no additional experience for entry besides the required certificates and ratings. The pay scale is typically an hourly role paid out by flight hour which can become problematic during periods of no flying due to inclement weather or student volume. Few schools, like AeroGuard pay on a full-time basis with benefits ensuring stability for pilots year-round. Amount of flight hours gained can vary from school to school, but one can expect anywhere from 30-100 flight hours per month.



## Charter Operations

Sometimes referred to as 135 operators, these opportunities are in high demand by pilots which means more competition and less availability. Many require additional flight experience at a minimum of 500 hours and the pay scales vary dramatically based on company and level of experience but generally will pay more than flight instruction. Reliability of building experience depends on the operation, but one can expect anywhere from 15-100 flight hours per month.





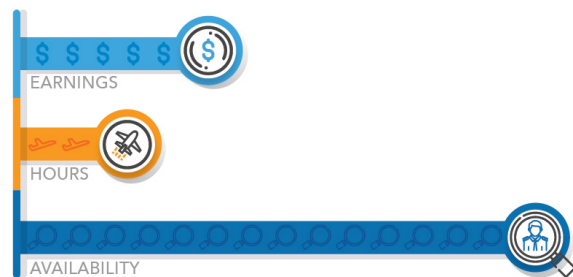
## Air Ambulance

These operations use aircraft to transport organs or patients between locations for procedures and emergency purposes. These roles are typically on-demand therefore most pilots are “on-call” during their shift. There are typically jobs available but additional flight experience could be required of around 500 hours. This is mostly a salaried position however the reliability of gaining the flight hours needed to become an airline pilot is a lot lower considering this is an “on-call” position. One can expect between 30-80 hours per month.



## Cargo Operations

Cargo operators fly smaller aircraft to assist companies such as FedEx and UPS in transporting packages to remote areas. These job openings are pretty common in most metropolitan areas and entry requirements can vary based on aircraft size and type but generally a commercial pilot certificate is all that is required. Pay can be either hourly or salary and is comparable to flight instruction. Ability to gain flight hours are typically low between 20-50 flight hours per month.



## Transitioning to the Airlines

Once a pilot meets the aeronautical experience requirements for an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, they can transition to a regional airline. The best paying roles are typically at the airlines and therefore many aviators choose to continue toward that path. After approximately 2-3 years, a pilot at a regional airline should expect to upgrade to captain which comes with a significant increase in pay. After 5-10 years working for a regional airline, many pilots then transition to a major airline. Many things such as the pilot’s schedule, pay, domicile assignment and choice of aircraft are based on seniority, or the length of time you’ve been with the company. The sooner you can get to the airline the better. The time is **now** to become a pilot.

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