



Commercial Pilot

Education and Training

Commercial pilots must graduate from a Transport Canada approved flying school or aviation college with a commercial pilot's license. All candidates must acquire "Category 1" medical clearance from Transport Canada. Some positions may require post-secondary education and some employers may also provide structured type training. In addition, pilots require specialized endorsements or licenses to fly different aircraft. A valid passport is required if your flight takes you outside of Canada. Security clearances are also a must if you plan to fly for a living.

In addition to being highly skilled, commercial pilots are thought of as "systems managers". They must continually monitor, analyze, and make quick decisions on complex problems that come their way. Making good decisions is based on their sound knowledge of navigation, meteorology, and communication systems. Many commercial pilots go through situational-based training, where simulated scenarios and environments are used to mimic real situations. Using actual aircraft controls like glass-cockpit technology, certain conditions are imitated so that pilots are better prepared for the situations they may face.

Total hours will soon not be the only measure of a pilot's competence: advanced post-secondary training in aviation related programs will also prepare candidates for airline and multi-crew work: for example, graduates of member Colleges will have the opportunity in 2007 for direct-entry hire into Air Canada Jazz through integrated Airline Transport License programs.

Earnings

Low:	\$20,000
Average:	\$55,000
High:	\$105,000

Nature of Work

A commercial pilot usually begins their career flying light planes and then moves on to various types of aircraft including helicopters or passenger aircraft, depending on the aircraft type they are licensed to fly. Many commercial pilots start out as flight instructors or fly for floatplane or air charter operators. In Canada commercial pilots may transport passengers, mail and freight, to the North, from coast to coast or from overseas on scheduled (airline) and unscheduled (charter) services, or provide other aviation services as required.

Main Duties

- Ensure the overall safety management of the flight: making good decisions to provide safety leadership
- Prepare and submit flight plans based on weather forecasts and operational information
- Ensure aircraft is properly loaded for safe and efficient flight
- Assess fuel requirements, check fuel quantities and fuel as required prior to flight
- Check on maintenance status of aircraft prior to flight
- Conduct checks of flight controls, instruments and aircraft engines
- Fly aircraft in accordance with established operating and safety procedures including abnormal and emergency situations
- Provide passengers with information and weather details

Essential Characteristics

- Systems management (ability to concentrate on complex procedures)
- Strong Communication Skills
- Good leadership and teamwork skills
- Multitasking and quick decision-making abilities
- Passion for flying and aviation





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Typical Employer

Commercial airlines (national and regional, large and small), air charter operators, flight training centres, cargo carriers, corporate aircraft, military, other industries (forestry, agricultural, medical)

Additional Information

Air Transport Association of Canada

www.atac.ca

BCIT

<http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/1005dipts>

Canadian Association of Aviation Colleges

www.caac.ca

Mount Royal College

<http://business.mtroyal.ca/aviation/>

SIAST

http://www.siastr.sk.ca/programs_courses_descriptions/CPIL.shtml

Transport Canada

www.tc.gc.ca/air/menu.htm

Pilot Career Info Guide

www.atac.ca/en/learn_to_fly/pilot_career_brochure.html

Flight schools

www.atac.ca/en/learn_to_fly/careers_catalogue.html

*Special thanks to: Coastal Pacific Aviation, Pacific Flying Club, Mount Royal College



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