National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA STEM CAREERS IN AERONAUTICS

NASA Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate has made decades of contributions to aviation. Every U.S. commercial aircraft and U.S. air traffic control tower has NASA-developed technology on board that improves efficiency and maintains safety. NASA scientists, engineers, programmers, test pilots, facilities managers, strategic planners, educators, graphic designers, and communications specialists are just some of the people who focus on aviation's future, either inside NASA or out in the aerospace community.

AERONAUTICS CAREER CATEGORIES

Science and Engineering
Researchers and engineers work together to solve aeronautics challenges. Research scientists search for explanations about why or how things happen. Engineers develop or improve technologies or processes based on scientific research.

Technical and Mathematical
Technicians are skilled people who work directly with specialized equipment and are experts in the practical application of science. They work closely with scientists and engineers to support their research. Their skills are used to operate wind tunnels, conduct lab research, fabricate test equipment, build models, and maintain equipment. Mathematics includes data analysis, computer science, modeling, design, and applied and theoretical research.

Arts and Social Sciences
Graphic designers, photographers, writers, and educators share NASA's mission both inside and outside the agency. Managers oversee all parts of NASA missions. Management roles include finance and budgeting, legislative affairs, and legal affairs like contract and intellectual property law.

Engineer Sean Clarke flies the X-57 flight simulator.

NASA researchers monitor software to improve air traffic in the FutureFlight Central simulation lab.

WHAT WILL YOUR AERONAUTICS JOB BE?

Science and Engineering

- materials scientist
- physicist
- fluid dynamics engineer
- aeronautical engineer
- chemical engineer
- electrical engineer
- hardware engineer
- remote sensing specialist
- quality control engineer
- project engineer
- software engineer
- quantum scientist
- artificial intelligence engineer
- biomedical engineer
- meteorologist
- biologist

Technical and Mathematics

- avionics technician
- air traffic controller
- software developer
- cybersecurity specialist
- simulation developer
- pilot (commercial, test drone)
- modeling technician
- UAS technician
- wind tunnel technician
- power system and electrical systems technician
- coating and paint specialist
- thermographer
- radiography/ultrasonic technician
- welder
- assembly technicians
- mechanics
- budget analyst
- supply chain manager
- statistician
- data analyst
- information analyst
- accountant
- procurement specialist
- radio operator
- fabrication technician

Arts and Social Sciences

- editor
- writer
- graphic designer
- videographer
- photographer
- contract lawyer
- aviation lawyer
- intellectual property lawyer
- legislative affairs specialist
- business administrator
- public relations specialist
- human resource specialist
- training specialist
- educator
- airport facilities planner
- operations manager

Interested in Connecting with NASA?

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https://www.nasa.gov/topics/aeronautics

Engineer Samantha O'Flaherty with a supersonic airplane model in a wind tunnel.

NASA researchers watch an air tanker during a field demo that also tested NASA's drone traffic management solutions.

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