

## Hiring Requirements

### Airlines

#### -Regional

- Minimum 1,500 hours flight time, unless qualified for restricted ATP
- If qualified, either 1,000 or 1,250 flight hours

#### -Major

- Unrestricted ATP certificate
- 2,500 hours total time
- Typically 1,000 hours jet PIC

### Charter

- First Officer—500 hours total time with commercial instrument rating
- Captain—1,500 hours total time with an ATP certificate and type rating (if applicable)
- Companies typically look for an individual that not only meets these requirements, but will work well with the existing team

### Corporate

- Minimum of a Commercial Pilot certificate with Instrument rating
- Departments generally look for an individual that will work well with the existing team

### Flight Instruction

- Commercial Pilot certificate with Instrument rating
- Flight Instructor certificate

## Destinations

### Airlines

#### -Regional

- Commercial airports
- Normally in the same region

#### -Major

- Commercial airports
- Across the United States and many international destinations

### Charter

- Varies
- If chartered for a vacation, the destination may be somewhere warm or exotic
- If for business, destinations are typically larger cities

### Corporate

- Dependent on mission of aircraft/company
- Vacation destinations, business destinations, or a combination

### Flight Instruction

- Airports within a 300 mile radius of the home airport
- Most flights consist of a trip to the practice area, with the flight beginning and ending at the same airport

For a more detailed overview of these four pilot jobs, see "A Comparison of Professional Pilot Jobs", a Western Michigan University Honors Thesis by Ryan M. Snoeyink

## Professional Pilot Jobs

A comparison



A brief overview of a thesis titled "A Comparison of Professional Pilot Jobs"

Ryan M. Snoeyink

## Schedule

### Airlines

- Based on seniority
- At least 12 days off per month
- Bidding system where pilots with high seniority get the first pick of the trips they want

### Charter

- Either scheduled days off (10 on/5 off) or always on call. Those always on call will typically have a set amount of vacation days per year.

### Corporate

- Variable. Departments have different policies, including scheduled flights (no pop-ups), crew rotations, or on-call 24/7

### Flight Instruction

- Variable. If hourly, can work as much or as little as desired. Full time instructors may have to work weekends in addition to weekdays.

## Compensation

### Airlines

#### -Regional

- First Officer \$36,000-\$50,000
- Captain \$60,000-\$90,000

#### -Major

- First Officer \$100,000-\$190,000
- Captain \$180,000-\$270,000

### Charter

#### -Large Jets

- First Officer \$62,000-\$105,000
- Captain \$98,000-\$163,000

#### -Midsize Jets

- First Officer \$48,000-\$81,000
- Captain \$70,000-\$128,000

#### Light Jets

- First Officer \$46,000-\$58,000
- Captain \$63,000-\$92,000

### Corporate

- First Officer \$101,000 average
- Captain \$161,000 average

### Flight Instruction

- Starting pay of \$39,000 average
- Can double with added responsibilities

\*Average wages per year. This number does not include insurance, retirement plans, or similar programs\*

## Location

### Airlines

- Large domicile airports across the United States
- Pilots are not required to live near their base

### Charter

- Large and medium size airports across the country
- Pilots are typically required to live within a specified drive time to the airport when on-call

### Corporate

- Large and medium size airports across the country
- Pilots are typically required to live within a specified drive time to the airport when on-call

### Flight Instruction

- Airports across the country
- Many flight schools are located in the southern United States due to more desirable flight training weather

## Typical Flying Day

### Airlines

- Four to five domestic legs per day or one international leg per day

### Charter

- Varies. Can include extended time at an airport terminal waiting on passengers or cargo

### Corporate

- Varies. Can include extended time at an airport terminal waiting on passengers

### Flight Instruction

- Multiple flight lessons per day including flights to the practice area, takeoff and landing practice, or cross-country training

