

Avionics Technician

The electronics inside an aircraft: radios, radar, navigation and autopilots. High pay for a short path.

TYPICAL PAY

\$82,280

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$49k to \$114k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Airline hangars, repair stations,
manufacturers, defense contract...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Physics, math and any electronics or computer course. Learn to solder properly; it is a real interview question.
- 2 Avionics or electronics program** 1 to 2 years
A 1 to 2 year community college program or an aviation technical school course in avionics or aircraft electronics.
- 3 First job in a shop** Straight after
Repair stations, airlines and manufacturers hire graduates and train them on their own equipment. Registered apprenticeships in avionics are listed on the government apprenticeship site.
- 4 Collect the certificates** 1 to 3 years in
The Federal Communications Commission General Radiotelephone Operator License covers work on aircraft radio transmitters. The Aircraft Electronics Association runs a Certified Aircraft Electronics Technician credential.
- 5 Sign-off authority** 2 to 5 years
A Federal Aviation Administration repairman certificate is issued through your employer and lets you approve work. Some technicians also earn the Airframe and Powerplant mechanic certificate to widen what they can sign for.

Pros and cons

- + High pay for one to two years of training
- + Strong outlook, and employers are short of technicians
- + Clean, precise work compared with most trades
- Nights, weekends and holidays, especially early on
- Rules and paperwork for every single task
- A mistake is a safety of flight issue and everyone knows it

Good to know

Miles of wire in a single aircraft

A large airliner carries well over a hundred miles of wiring bundled through the airframe. Tracing one intermittent fault through that is exactly what avionics technicians are paid for.

Airliners get hit by lightning and keep flying

Commercial aircraft are struck roughly once a year each on average. The skin carries the current around the outside, and the electronics inside are shielded and bonded so the systems survive it.

Optional boosts

General Radiotelephone Operator License. Certified Aircraft Electronics Technician. Airframe and Powerplant mechanic certificate. Manufacturer training.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Avionics Technicians
O*NET OnLine: Avionics Technicians, education and outlook
Aircraft Electronics Association: training and technician certification
Apprenticeship.gov: Registered Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/avionics-technician>



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