NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

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NASA CAREERS

Astronaut jobs are very scarce, but other equally important and rewarding positions are available in the human space flight program — and they all call for good education or strong experience, or both. Individuals considering a career with the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, or with any of the other NASA centers, should ascertain what level of education is required for their chosen career and attain that education.

Many jobs in the aerospace industry are common in other businesses — personnel specialists, accountants, labor relations specialists, secretaries and the like — while others are unique. NASA refers to its jobs in the engineering and scientific fields as "aerospace technology" positions.

Aerospace technology positions cross traditional academic disciplines because NASA work is not channeled in the usual manner. The job may require a combination of talents — mechanical and electronic engineering, for example.

Because of the uniqueness of the work being done, new occupations and related terminology have been created. A majority of the occupations at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center are in the engineering field.

Some major types of engineering positions are in the areas of Automation and Robotics, Fluid and Flight Mechanics, Materials and Structures, Propulsion and Power Systems, Flight Systems, Measurement and Instrumentation Systems, Data Systems, and Experimental Facilities and Equipment. A lesser number of positions include Space Sciences (including such specializations as meteorology, ionospherics, lunar and planetary studies, radiation fields and particles, and meteoroid studies); and Life

Sciences and Systems, the study of living processes (i.e., psychological and physiological studies, microbiology, hematology, neurobiology, botany, exobiology, biochemistry, radiobiology, and interactions between human and machine systems).

All of the engineering and scientific positions under the broad term "aerospace technology" require certain education achievements. That is, in order to qualify, one should hold a bachelor's degree for disciplines of engineering, mathematics, and the physical and biological sciences. In the Life Sciences, a master's degree and/or doctorate degree is highly desirable.

Administrative positions in areas such as personnel, financial and budget management, public information, procurement, and contracts are often filled through the cooperative education program or through vacancy announcements.

Most schools have a career guidance counseling program designed to help the student select a career and formulate the educational schedule needed to reach the goal. Students are also encouraged to contact their choice of accredited universities to determine if they offer instruction in the aerospace field.

Jobs with NASA are covered under the rules of the Office of Personnel Management. Information on Civil Service jobs, including how to apply, is available at most post offices and at Federal Job Information Center offices in most major cities.