



# Educational Topic

## Local Air Traffic Controller

### Related Job Titles:

Ground Clearance Controller, Air Traffic Controller, Tower Controller, Air Traffic Specialist

### Job Description:

Local Air Traffic Controllers use both radar, visual information, and radio communications to direct and monitor air traffic so it flows smoothly, efficiently and safely through US airspace. Tower or Local Air Traffic Controllers work from airport control towers. They monitor movement of aircraft and give instructions to pilots for taxiing and takeoff. They give clearance to pilots for landing and takeoff and relay current weather information. One of their primary duties is to provide and maintain separation between landing and departing aircraft in the vicinity of the airport. This position usually rotates among the two other controller positions also located in the tower: Clearance Delivery and Ground Control.

### Interests / Abilities:

- Can you stay focused on a task even in a busy, noisy room?
- Do you remain calm and decisive even during stressful situations?
- Can you work on more than one task at a time and still keep track of each one?
- Can remember information for a long time after you hear it?
- Do you enjoy working on a team?
- Is it easy for you to visualize a 2-dimensional picture in a 3-dimensional way?
- Do you enjoy solving problems?

### Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Physics
- Aeronautics (science of flight)
- Meteorology
- Aviation
- Algebra and graphing of equations
- Computer training

### Education / Training Needed:

A two or four year college degree must be obtained before initiation of Air Traffic Control (ATC) training. You must then successfully pass the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aptitude test before beginning Air Traffic Control Training through the FAA. Additional computer training is beneficial for this job.

### Areas of expertise:

- *Excellent listening and communication skills*
- *Thorough knowledge of the air traffic management system and the FAA regulations*

