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# Becoming an Air Pilot in the 21st Century

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### Becoming an Air Pilot in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

My career choice for my life is to become a commercial air pilot and travel all over the world. I really enjoy the idea of meeting new people and exploring different cultures than my own and immersing myself into something bigger than myself. When I was just a child I use to dream of flying and being set free like an eagle soaring above all of the problems of the world. I want to help people explore, travel and discover new things as I have in coming to America. But with a cost of adventure there is a cost of many problems and things going wrong. As written in this quote by Rex Chamberlain about his experience being a pilot and how unpredictable it can be: “Just like the old story of the sea being unforgiving, aviation is unforgiving, and it takes dedication and constant application and expenditures of sums of money and all kinds of human effort to make this system run as smooth as possible” (O’Malley, P.86).

Most importantly, I should explain what a commercial airline pilot is exactly. A commercial airline pilot is primarily responsible for the navigation and flight of commercially owned and operated planes, as well as some agricultural planes used for ‘crop dusting.’ The median amount a commercial pilot usually makes per a year is around \$98,000. According to the department of labor website, aviation and piloting careers are supposed to decrease by 2022 but many other websites such as (The Truth about the Profession) seeks to argue that statistic. As a

prospecting commercial pilot you must complete and gain many certifications in order to gain the career you want. In college and certification programs, you must gain most of these-Student Pilot Certificate, Private Pilot License, an Instrument Rating and the Commercial Pilot License. You also must have a bachelor's degree in any subject supporting an aviation job, and the 'ATP' (Airline Transport Pilot) from the FAA. The working conditions are not the easiest to deal with especially involving pilots that fly overseas and to different countries suffer a lot of jet lag. As seen in this article: "Functional impairment associated with human fatigue is increasingly being recognized as a significant risk in commercial airline flight operations" (Petrilli 1347-1348).

In conclusion, I have learned much about my prospective career as a commercial airline pilot. The resources I have gathered have helped me realize not only some of the risks of this career path but also the endless possibilities of becoming a commercial airline pilot. There is the risk of becoming extremely fatigued and the ultimate interruptions to my 'circadian sleep rhythm' that can have dangerous and damaging effects when flying on international trips. I have collectively observed the pros and cons of acquiring this job and the educational path including all of the certificates and degrees to get to that point. There will be sacrifices, major sacrifices I must make but for me to accomplish my dream as with anyone else with such a passion you must continue to push forward. Yes, there will be health risks and lots of time taken away from a potential family I may have someday but above it all it only makes me want to fly a plane even more. As when I was a child and dreamed of flying like an eagle above everything in the sky- This is my dream, to become a commercial airline pilot.

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