HOW TO BECOME AN
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

NATCA

The Federal Aviation Administration has set these minimum requirements for those aspiring to work as an air traffic control specialist:

- Be a United States citizen

- Be under the age of 31

- Pass a medical examination

- Pass a security investigation

- Pass the FAA air traffic pre-employment tests

- Speak English clearly enough to be understood over communications equipment

- Have three years of progressively responsible work experience, or a bachelor's degree, or a combination of post-secondary education and work experience that totals three years

- Be willing to relocate to an FAA facility based on agency staffing needs

"There's nothing I'm more proud to say than I'm an air traffic controller. Not only is our profession challenging but it also brings great reward." – Chrissy Padgett, Washington Center

Applicants with at least 52 weeks of on-the-job air traffic control experience may be exempt from some of the minimum requirements.

The FAA offers job openings for those with previous air traffic control experience as well as entry-level trainees through separate job vacancy announcements posted on USAjobs.com for a limited time at certain parts of the year at the FAA's decision.

For more information, please visit the FAA's website:
www.faa.gov/jobs/career_fields/aviation_careers

YOU'VE BEEN HIRED! // WHAT'S NEXT?

If the FAA offers you employment after the application, testing, and vetting processes, your first step is to report to the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City for 12 weeks of required training courses. Upon successful completion of that coursework, the FAA will assign you to a facility, where you'll begin an on-the-job training process that takes approximately 2-3 years. Success in training will earn you the coveted title of Certified Professional Air Traffic Controller!

"It is absolutely true that if you find a job you love, you never have to work a day in your life. Everything about controlling traffic, from the challenges you face to the skills you develop, make this profession great!" – Andre Jean, Boston TRACON