Potential Careers

NMU’s Automotive Service Technology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations
- Aircraft Assembly
- Aircraft Maintenance Technician
- Aircraft Mechanic
- Armed Forces Mechanic
- Aviation Maintenance Technician
- Crew Chief
- Field Inspector for the FAA
- Shop Supervisor

What To Do With A Major In...

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
103 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2283
www.nmu.edu/acac

Technology and Occupational Sciences Department
101 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2190
www.nmu.edu/tos

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Aviation Maintenance Club

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.pama.org Professional Aviation Maintenance Association
www.awam.org Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Aviation Technology

Aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and service technicians keep aircrafts in peak operating condition, perform scheduled maintenance, make repairs, and complete inspections required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). They inspect engines, landing gear, instruments, pressurized cabins, and accessories such as: brakes, valves, pumps, and air-conditioning systems. Inspections take place following a schedule based on the number of hours the aircraft has flown, calendar days since the last inspection, cycles of operation, or a combination of these factors.

Mechanics specializing in repair work rely on pilots’ descriptions of problems to find and fix faulty equipment. Some mechanics work on many different types of aircrafts including jets, propeller-driven airplanes, and helicopters. Others specialize in one section of a particular type of aircraft, such as the engine, hydraulics, or electrical system.

Skills and Competencies

Students considering a career in the aviation maintenance technology have many things to consider about the profession. Workers have great responsibility to maintain safety standards. A strong background in electronics is helpful as well as mechanical aptitude. Employers like to hire self-motivated, hard-working, enthusiastic people that are able to diagnose and solve complex mechanical problems. Mechanics have to work under time pressure. Work can be very stressful. Ear protection is necessary to protect hearing from the noise and vibration of aircraft engines. Knowledge about new as well as old aircraft technology is preferred. Ongoing training to update skills is required. Agility is important for the reaching and climbing necessary to do the job. A&P mechanics must be willing to work at heights exceeding 50 feet. Aviation Technology graduates have a 95% placement in the aviation industry.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core
- AMT 101 Introduction to Aviation Maintenance (6 cr.)
- AMT 102 Aircraft Basic Science (6 cr.)
- AMT 103 Aviation Shop Practices (6 cr.)
- AMT 104 Aircraft Electrical Systems (6 cr.)
- AMT 200 Aircraft Sheet Metal/Non-Metallic Structures (6 cr.)
- AMT 201 Reciprocating Engines and Propellers (6 cr.)
- AMT 202 Aircraft Flight Control Systems (6 cr.)
- AMT 203 Reciprocating Engine Overhaul (6 cr.)
- AMT 204 Turbine Engines and Systems (6 cr.)
- AMT 205 Aircraft Fluid Power and Landing Gear (6 cr.)
- AMT 206 Cabin Atmosphere and Information Systems (6 cr.)
- AMT 207 Turbine Engine Maintenance and Inspection (6 cr.)

Other Required Courses
- CIS 110 Principals of Computer Information Systems (4 cr.)
- EN 111 College Composition I (4 cr.)
- EN 211 College Composition II (4 cr.)
- HP 200 Physical Well Being (1 cr.)
- Electives from Liberal Divisions I-VI (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the résumé-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your résumé and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a field-related internship is a way to develop your professional network, enhance your skills and proficiencies, and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Aviation Technology is an Associate of Applied Sciences degree that requires 89 credits, taking two and a half to three years to finish.

Technicians certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) work as “airframe technicians,” focusing on the structural part of a plane or as “power plant technicians,” who are qualified to work on the engine. The training offered at NMU prepares the student to become a federally licensed Airframe and Power plant (A&P) technician. The majority of mechanics working on civilian aircrafts today are A&P mechanics. An A&P license is also a great practical preparation for an engineering career.

Job Outlook

Industry wide, Aviation Technology careers are expected to grow at an average rate of 6% in the next decade. Median earnings from those in the industry topped $25 an hour, while those in elite jobs with additional training and experience have earned more than $35 an hour.