

JOB REQUIREMENTS

ATCO job is so unique that it requires special skills and qualities.

1. What are ATC job requirements?
2. Why are the requirements so strict?
3. What qualities and skills should a person have to be a good controller?



To become an air traffic controller, you must

- pass special tests (psychological and medical) which show that you are appropriate for the job
- **get special education** (either in Aviation College or Aviation Academy)
- **pass on-the-job training** in ATC Center

Only then, you can work as a controller. Usually it takes about three or four years to **get all necessary qualifications**.

ATC job requires special skills, abilities and qualities because managing traffic is a complex and pressurized job. Air traffic controllers must

- have good memory
- be responsible and attentive
- be stress resistant (be calm under pressure)
- be able to process a lot of information and make a decision quickly
- be able to work in a team

ATC job has strict medical and mental requirements. For that reason, controllers pass medical control regularly. They have full medical examinations and pre-shift medical checks. Doctors check eye sight (vision), hearing, heart and general condition. Controllers must be healthy because **ATC job involves high workloads**, night work and work under strain and pressure. Any health disorders (health problems) can slow down concentration, reaction and response time, which can negatively affect flight safety.

English is another requirement. Controllers must know ICAO standard phraseology, plain English and have ICAO Operational level 4. It's **essential (important) for safe and effective communication** with pilots. ATC controllers must have good communication skills, must give clear instructions and information to pilots and listen to pilots attentively.

Air traffic controllers are required to pass regular professional training (to keep their skills at the necessary level). ATC regular training includes

- professional and English refresher courses (which help **prolong ATC license**)
- simulator training (which is necessary **for improving operational skills**)