Career Paths in Aerospace

**Foundational Skills:** Math, English, Science

### Advanced Degree (6-8 years)
- Engineering Managers
  - Wage range: $44.23-$70.55/hr
- Physicists

### Bachelor’s Degree (4 years)
- Aerospace Engineers
  - Wage range: $30.69-$64.28
- Industrial Designers
- Materials Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
  - Wage range: $28.18-$64.12

### Associates Degree (2 years)
- Aircraft Mechanics
  - Wage range: $19.78-$32.20
- Airplane Assemblers
- Engineering Technicians
  - Wage range: $19.33-$43.64
- Mechanical Drafters

### Apprenticeship Path (2-5 years)
- Machinists
  - Wage range: $15.73-$36.51
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
  - Wage range: $18.65-$37.66
- Precision Assemblers
- Stationary Engineers
  - Wage range: $22.96-$34.96
- Welders/Solderers
  - Wage range: $15.62-$31.00

### Short-term or On-the-Job Training (2-12 months)
- Forklift Operators
- Metal and Plastic Processing Workers
- Quality Control Inspectors
- Welding Machine Operators
  - Wage range: $10.57-$26.25

Sources include Workforce Development Council Snohomish County’s Aerospace and Manufacturing Career Tree as well as 2011 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for Seattle-Bellevue-Everett.
Aerospace

Trends:
Aerospace is a key industry in King County, which comprises almost half of all aerospace jobs in the state. King County has almost 43,000 aerospace jobs, plus 75,000 more that may not be exclusively aerospace focused, but which serve the aerospace industry in machine shops, tooling companies, and more. Aerospace jobs run the gamut from entry level to middle-skill trades to engineers with Ph.D.s.

Thanks to an expansion of the Boeing Company’s local production and the beginnings of economic recovery, aerospace openings are expected to grow significantly in the next six years. At the same time, a significant portion of the aerospace workforce, particularly at Boeing, will reach retirement age within the next five years.

Between 2008 and 2018, 53 professions within aerospace firms are expected to grow. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Percent change through 2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers, Applications</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Engineers</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Research Analysts</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineers</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Information Scientists, Research</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Research Analysts</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logisticians</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Pilots</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: February 2012 King County Aerospace Study, prepared by Accenture for enterpriseSeattle and the King County Aerospace Alliance

Wages:
The average annual wage in King County for aerospace occupations is $71,000 (which is 10 percent higher than the county’s average wage).

Further information:
For more information about these and other occupations, including wages, training programs, employment projections, and job links, see:
www.workforceexplorer.com (click on the “looking for” drop-down box, then on “wage information” or “occupations in demand”)
www.careerbridge.wa.gov
www.mapyourcareer.org