

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE, CTI PROGRAM INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF CTI PROGRAM:

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Air Traffic Control (ATC) program is one of 31 College Training Initiative (CTI) institutions in the United States. See <http://www.faa.gov/careers/employment/atc.htm> for a complete description of this initiative. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established CTI schools as a requirement for an ATC career, unless an individual has previous military ATC service. The CTI schools have courses leading to varying ATC certifications in different types of ATC towers and centers in the US. UAA's AAS Air Traffic Control degree qualifies students to be employed in Air Traffic Control Towers (Terminals) and Centers.

FAA AGE RESTRICTIONS:

Before starting the CTI degree program, prospective students please note: “. . . the Secretary of Transportation maintains the authority to establish the maximum entry age for original appointment to ATC positions with the FAA.” (See above web link for complete description.) We recommend that prospective students do not attempt to enter the AAS degree program unless completion of the program can be attained by the age of 30, *as you must be employed prior to the age of 31.*

UAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEGREES:

UAA offers both an AAS (two-year) and BS (four-year) degree in ATC. *The following description of the UAA ATC CTI program describes only the AAS degree program for simplicity purposes.* The FAA does not differentiate in salary for Air Traffic Control positions for those students having either an AAS or BS degree. A BS degree is recommended if the individual wants to proceed with a management, research or a teaching career with the FAA, as seniority for these positions is determined by achieving a higher degree. Most UAA CTI students pursue the AAS degree, and then continue working toward their BS degree, while either waiting for the hiring process to take place, or after being employed as a controller. While the CTI educational/hiring process described below is related to the AAS degree, any student may also elect the BS degree for the hiring process.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS:

During the second semester of the ATC degree program, UAA will obtain information from the students, such as name, address, social security number, etc., to be faxed and sent electronically to the FAA. We must also obtain a statement from each student declaring they are a US citizen. You cannot be hired by the FAA in ATC positions until US citizenship is obtained. (*Any international student may begin taking ATC classes before citizenship has been obtained; however, UAA cannot enter the student officially into the CTI program or send information to the FAA until citizenship is obtained.*) Included in these documents, UAA must also obtain a waiver permitting us to provide this personal information to the FAA.

These documents are sent electronically to the FAA headquarters in Oklahoma City, and place the student on a national list containing information from all CTI schools. *The student's projected graduation date is one item on these documents that is very important.* The FAA is reviewing this date as the potential date the student will be available for hiring as an air traffic

controller. This date also determines *when the FAA allows the student to take the AT-SAT test* (see “Aptitude Testing” below).

APTITUDE TESTING:

CTI students will be required to take an FAA authorized pre-employment (aptitude) exam called the AT-SAT. It evaluates the skill sets identified as contributing to successful ATC careers. Areas of evaluation include but are not limited to applied mathematics, geometric visualization, memory, basic ATC skills and pattern recognition. See www.faa.gov/careers/employment/at-cti.htm for further explanation.

All students must pass this aptitude exam in order to be employed as a controller, and each student receives two opportunities to pass. It is a computerized, timed exam, administered by the FAA. We will assist you in preparing for the exam prior to its being administered, and also help in arranging study groups to help you prepare; *however UAA has no control over the date, time or location of the exam or the results. You will be contacted **directly** by the test provider as to the date, time, and location of your AT-SAT testing. (For the past several years, this test has been given at the beginning of the student’s final semester.)*

GEOGRAPHICAL PREFERENCES:

Once the student has passed the AT-SAT exam and been awarded either an appropriate AAS or BS degree, the student will select geographical preferences as part of the hiring process. The student will be asked to identify a minimum of one and a maximum of five states in which he or she will accept employment. All locations are of equal preference. The student will only be referred for employment consideration at locations you select, and the student will only be referred for one location at a time.

GETTING HIRED:

The following is an example of a hiring sequence. Attendance at a CTI institution does not guarantee employment.

Approximately one month after graduation, UAA will send the student’s hiring recommendation to FAA headquarters. This recommendation consists of name, social security number, date of graduation, and GPA. The FAA hires controllers in order of highest AT-SAT score and GPA, so maintaining a good GPA is central to the hiring process.

Once the FAA has received your graduation recommendation, the FAA will issue the student a Job Code, which enables on-line application to the FAA system. The student has a two-year window in which to be employed. Waivers are available, through the FAA, if the waiting period exceeds the two year limit. At this point, your geographical preferences become important. If the FAA has an opening in one or more of the states you have identified, they will contact the graduate for position acceptance

HIRING REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates, who are being considered for employment, will begin the pre-employment process, i.e., suitability, medical, and security clearances. Please see “Qualification Standards” at: <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/standards/IORs/gs2100/2152.HTM>. and <http://www.faa.gov/careers/employment/atc-quals.htm>.

An FAA-certified doctor’s list for the ATC pre-employment physical is available at the Aviation Office. We recommend that students research these areas carefully **before** becoming a CTI student. If an individual has medical concerns relating to the above FAA qualification standards, we recommend their obtaining an appropriate medical examination **prior** to starting the program.

FAA ACADEMY:

Every CTI graduate must go to the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City. For a Tower position, the duration of your stay in Oklahoma City is approximately six to eight weeks, and a Center position is about twelve weeks. The employee goes from the FAA Academy to the accepted position.

AFTER THE ACADEMY:

Each new FAA controller must progress through developmental certification stages upon arriving at their accepted facility. The 2009 **FAA ATC Pay Bands** are listed below, and are posted at: https://employees.faa.gov/employee_services/pay_perf/pay/

ATC Pay Bands Exclusive of locality pay												
ATC Level				Dx	Ex	Fx	Gx	Hx	Ix	Jx	Kx	Lx
				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CPC	xH		Max	53,075	53,075	61,100	66,575	74,600	82,675	90,700	102,775	110,800
			Min	39,400	39,400	47,425	48,100	56,125	55,500	66,525	71,500	79,525
D3	xG	75%	Max	N/A	39,400	47,425	48,100	56,125	58,500	66,525	71,500	79,525
			Min		37,975	43,994	44,500	50,519	52,300	58,319	62,050	68,069
D2	xF	50%	Max			43,994	44,500	50,519	52,300	58,319	62,050	68,069
			Min	N/A	N/A	40,563	40,900	44,913	46,100	50,113	52,600	53,613
D1	xD	25%	Max				40,900	44,913	46,100	50,113	52,600	56,613
			Min	N/A	N/A	N/A	37,300	39,306	39,900	41,906	43,150	45,156
AG	xC	FAA Academy		33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700	33,700
		Prorated/ Weeks										

All salaries are pay bands and do not include differential or locality pay, which may be viewed on the above mentioned web site. The salary listed at the bottom of the page (AG) is the annual salary while at the FAA Academy, which is prorated for the number of weeks you are in Oklahoma City. The developmental levels (D1, D2, D3) on this grid should be read **beginning at the bottom**, and are spread among facility level. For instance, levels 10 through 12 are ATC Centers and busy terminal facilities.. Levels 4 through 9 are various control towers (terminals), although complex control towers may also be included through level 11. The levels represent the size and complexity of the tower or center. For example, a tower in Grand Forks, North Dakota, would be smaller and less complex than a tower in Los Angeles, California. The salaries listed

as “AG, D1, D2 and D3” are developmental levels through which each controller progresses in order to become a “Certified Professional Controller” (CPC). This progression can take anywhere between six months and three+ years, depending upon the ability of the individual and the size/complexity of the facility. The salary grid listed as “CPC” is the final salary for each ATC facility for air traffic control positions.

PRICES AT UAA FOR THE CTI PROGRAM:

All prices quoted are subject to change without notice. Prices are estimated, and will vary depending upon date residency is established.

Please see www.uaa.alaska.edu/admissions/upload/UAA-Residency-Form-03-2004.pdf for UAA residency requirements.

Resident Tuition:

Lower Division \$134/credit
Upper Division \$151/credit

Western Undergraduate Exchange Program:

Lower Division: \$201/credit
Upper Division \$226/credit

WUE (Western Undergraduate Exchange) is a program whereby the student pays 150% of the institution’s regular resident tuition, plus any fees that all students are required to pay. UAA offers the WUE program to residents of AZ, CO, HI**, ID, MT, NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA and WY. **AAS degrees only are not available to residents of Hawaii under this program.

Non-Resident Tuition:

Lower Division: \$448/credit
Upper Division \$465/credit

Air Traffic Control AAS Degree: (60 credits)

Resident Tuition \$ 8,040 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$10,335
WUE Tuition \$12,060 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$14,355
Non Resident \$26,880 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$29,175

BS Degree: (124 credits: 82 LD, 42 UD)

Resident \$19,330 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$21,625
WUE Student \$28,995 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$31,290 **without establishing residency*
Non-Resident \$56,266 + \$2,295 (simulator fees) = \$58,561 **without establishing residency*

* Residency may be established within a maximum of two years, which may significantly decrease this total price. Please see above website for complete details. Prices quoted above are subject to change with notice, and do not include dormitory or living expenses.