

Assignment: Take one of the three occupations you found most interesting and prepare a career information form on the occupation.

## A Sample Career Information Form

### General Information

Title of Occupation: Flight Attendant

Occupational Type: Service

### Nature of Work

#### General Working Conditions

Flight attendants work for airline companies and have duties both on the ground and in the air.

#### Employee Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of a flight attendant is to ensure that passengers have a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable flight. They perform a variety of pre-flight and in-flight tasks. They attend briefing sessions of the flight crew prior to takeoff, check supplies and safety equipment, welcome passengers, attend to their needs, serve food and drinks, and carry out some clerical duties.

#### Physical Demands

Flight attendants carry out the majority of their duties on their feet. Most airlines, therefore, require that employees pass a physical exam. Many airlines require that eyesight be at least 20/50 if not corrected and 20/20 with eyeglasses or contacts.

#### Potential Work Hazards

The most obvious potential work hazard is the possibility of a flight-related emergency (e.g., malfunctioning equipment, dangerous weather). Flight attendants are not classified, however, as working in a particularly hazardous occupation.

#### Worker Characteristics

The most successful flight attendants are described as being congenial, pleasant, poised, tactful, and resourceful. Flight attendants who seem to enjoy their job most are those who have a desire to serve the public, think clearly and logically, and don't mind following instructions.

#### Degree of Worker Independence

Flight attendants usually work in a team atmosphere, although small aircraft often require only one flight attendant on board each flight. Most flight attendants enjoy working with coworkers.

#### General Pros and Cons to Employment

For a family-minded person, regular travel away from home might be problematic. The salary is usually not as high as it might be in other occupations. At the same time, travel for a flight attendant and her or his family is nearly free, and there are many opportunities to see other parts of the world.

### Employment Trends and Projections

#### Current Supply and Demand for Workers

According to the information I gathered, there's always a much larger public interest in flight attendant work than there are jobs available. Many people try for years to become a flight attendant and still aren't selected for an interview.

## **Future Prospects**

According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, there will probably be a greater increase in flight attendant positions over the next 5 to 10 years compared to many other careers. This doesn't mean, however, that obtaining jobs will get any easier; there will still be keen competition. If I could obtain two years of college and get some experience working with the public, I would greatly increase my chances of being hired.

## **Stability of Employment**

Turnover rates are very low these days. Most people who become flight attendants hold on to their jobs for many years.

## **Opportunities for Advancement**

There are a number of possibilities for advancement; first flight attendant (purser), supervising flight attendant, instructor, recruitment representative, and chief attendant. As in most industries, obtaining advanced positions is competitive.

## **Qualifications**

### **General Qualifications for Employment**

The ability to follow directions and a pleasant personality are important in this field.

### **Educational/Training Requirements**

At least a high school diploma (although some college is helpful) and completion of a flight training school is required.

### **Minimum Aptitude**

Knowledge of emergency procedures and of flight regulations and procedures is required.

### **Preparation Standards**

Some college is helpful; completion of a couple years of college will increase chances of being hired. Four to six weeks in intense flight training school are required once hired on.

## **Workload and Salary Information**

### **Typical Hours Worked Each Week/Month**

This usually varies from 55 to 85 hours of actual flight time each month. There are also several hours each week during which flight attendants are away from home if their employment happens to require layovers.

### **Salary Range**

Between \$13,000 and \$40,000. The average salary for a flight attendant who has worked about 6 years is around \$20,000.

### **Benefits**

Expenses (food, transportation, housing) paid for while on duty. Paid sick leave and vacation time. Travel is virtually free for flight attendants and their families. Some companies offer additional benefits, too (such as life insurance).