

Airport planner

Airport planners examine how airport facilities may need to change and communicate options for future development. Their work is distinct from running today's terminal or producing every detailed engineering design. Planning combines evidence and stakeholder needs; a proposal is not automatically an approved construction project.

What the role does

- Analyse airport facility needs and development options.
- Prepare or review planning reports, conceptual layouts and supporting evidence.
- Coordinate planning work with airport stakeholders and technical specialists.

Where the work happens

Planning offices, stakeholder meetings and authorised site visits, depending on the project and employer.

Employer example

Maryland Department of Transportation / Maryland Aviation Administration • United States - Maryland • Airport Planner (Transportation Planner III)

Closed vacancy historical example • Checked 2026-10-27 [E044-MAA]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Bachelor's degree including 30 credits in the listed relevant fields. Two years' qualifying research/planning experience including aviation work.
Other stated conditions	Specified master's/doctorate or military-experience substitutions are available; consult the full wording. The advertisement's Licenses & Certifications section states N/A for this recruitment.

Closed position-specific 2025 recruitment; its "N/A" certification entry is not a claim that planning is unregulated everywhere.

Desirable requirements are not separately classified here; do not infer that none apply.

PREPARE AND VERIFY

Separate requirements from preparation

United States: planning guidance versus personal qualification: The FAA master-plan circular guides planning work, not personal hiring eligibility. The reviewed vacancy states its own education and experience criteria. Other jurisdictions, employers or tasks may attach professional-registration or approval responsibilities that need separate checking. [O044-FAA]

Still to verify: One full employer example, with explicit historical dates. No comprehensive state planning-profession or international qualification-equivalence assessment has been performed.

Explore a realistic entry route

- Read a public airport planning overview and list the questions it addresses: present demand, constraints, options, impacts and implementation. Keep factual observations separate from your own ideas. Do not interpret a public plan as permission to redesign restricted areas or rely on old layouts for operational use.
- Develop relevant analysis and communication through a genuine course or project. Explain how you selected data, handled missing information and compared alternatives. An airport-themed student

exercise is useful evidence of learning, but it is not professional airport-planning experience unless undertaken in that capacity.

- Compare employer criteria before selecting a degree, short course or software package. Identify whether the role is graduate support, experienced planning or project leadership. Ask how the employer evaluates related disciplines and permitted substitutions rather than assuming that any aviation qualification meets a planning requirement.

Build evidence of your skills

- Prepare a one-page options comparison for a fictional public facility, using invented demand and explicit assumptions. Include a “what we do not know” column and explain why additional evidence would be needed before a decision.
- Produce a short chart and plain-language summary from an openly licensed, non-sensitive dataset. Cite the source and date; show limitations and avoid presenting a projection as a guaranteed outcome.

Prepare for an interview

Reflection prompts only, not questions claimed to be used by an employer.

- Preparation prompt: how would you explain an uncertain forecast to a non-technical audience? Use a real analysis example and describe how you avoided overstating precision.
- Prepare questions about the balance of analysis, stakeholder work, environmental coordination and design review. Ask who approves plans and how the team manages changes in assumptions or project scope.

Investigate possible next roles

Explore specialist airport planning, environmental coordination or planning project leadership. These are distinct areas to investigate; progression does not confer engineering sign-off or regulatory approval authority.

Sources and scope

[\[E044-MAA\] Maryland Department of Transportation / Maryland Aviation Administration Airport Planner \(Transportation Planner III\)](#)

Closed vacancy historical example. United States - Maryland. Checked 2026-10-27.

[\[O044-FAA\] Federal Aviation Administration AC 150/5070-6B - Airport Master Plans](#)

FAA guidance for preparing airport master plans. FAA catalog marked the circular active when checked; this guide does not reproduce it or provide a design/approval method. Checked 2026-10-27.

Educational requirements guide, not operational instruction or an employment guarantee. Verify current requirements with the relevant authority and employer. Conditions belong to the named employer, post and jurisdiction. They are not worldwide eligibility rules; check the current advertisement and local authority before making training or application decisions. No job guarantee.