

R104 / JOB TITLE GUIDE / VERSION 0.1

Aviation ground instructor

An aviation ground instructor teaches aviation knowledge rather than being defined by in-aircraft instruction. The exact course matters: private-pilot test preparation and advanced airline-oriented ground school have different employer expectations. Some posts combine classroom and training-device work. This role is distinct from the separate flight-instructor career and from an ATM simulator pilot who portrays traffic for controller training.

What the role does

- Prepare and deliver structured aviation ground-school learning.
- Assess understanding and maintain student training records.
- Review learning materials and address gaps through appropriate teaching support.

Where the work happens

Classrooms, academy offices and, in some posts, training devices.

Employer example 1

Pan Am Flight Academy • United States • Ground School Instructor - ATP/CTP, Boeing 737, Airbus A320

Archived source historical example • Checked 2026-10-27 [R104-EMP1]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	FAA ATP with multi-engine ratings; FAA type rating if conducting flight-training-device instruction; flexible shifts and communication capability.
Desirable in this source	Interpreting complex customer requirements and attitudes.
Other stated conditions	Lists a bachelor's degree and five years of Part 121 flying experience under education/experience.

Miami. Historical document in a 2023 upload directory; not a verified current vacancy.

Employer example 2

Del Mar College • United States • GROUND PILOT SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR (PART-TIME POOL)

Standing role description not a vacancy • Checked 2026-10-27 [R104-EMP2]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Relevant associate's degree; one year of specified Part 141 school leadership; current FAA ground-instructor or CFI certificate in Minimum Qualifications.
Other stated conditions	Preferred Qualifications separately labels CFI and US work authorisation Required, creating an unresolved certificate inconsistency.

Corpus Christi, Texas. Position-description library, not proof of an available post; includes an old ISO reference.

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

PREPARE AND VERIFY

Separate requirements from preparation

United States - 14 CFR Part 61 Subpart I ground instructors: FAA rules distinguish basic, advanced and instrument ground-instructor privileges, with eligibility and knowledge-testing provisions and conditions for recent experience. Endorsement authority is limited to the applicable scope. A ground-instructor certificate does not itself establish eligibility for every airline, academy or college teaching post. [R104-REG1]

Still to verify: The Del Mar description has contradictory certificate wording and an old standards reference; current employer clarification is needed. No active hiring is asserted for either ground-school example. Pan Am's senior expectations are not general FAA ground-instructor minima.

Explore a realistic entry route

- Choose the course and jurisdiction you want to teach before planning credentials. Identify whether the work is ground knowledge only or also includes devices or aircraft. Compare an official certificate's privileges with the employer's separate experience requirements; neither automatically replaces the other.
- Study the relevant regulator's current instructor pathway and confirm the rating or authorisation needed for the intended activity. Do not infer eligibility from a generic instructor title or an attractive training advertisement. Resolve conflicting vacancy wording with an authorised employer representative before relying on it; this research has not contacted anyone.
- Develop teaching evidence with harmless, non-operational topics and seek supervised instructional experience where appropriate. Practise explaining concepts, checking understanding and giving respectful feedback. A self-made lesson portfolio is evidence of communication, not an instructor certificate, authority to endorse training or permission to teach safety-critical procedures.

Build evidence of your skills

- Design a ten-minute lesson on reading a fictional study timetable. Include a learning objective, an explanation, a short understanding check and an accessible alternative format. Ask a peer what remained confusing and revise the lesson. Do not teach aircraft operation or present the activity as approved aviation training.
- Create a fictional learner-progress record that separates attendance, observed understanding and follow-up needs. Include a correction history and privacy-conscious storage notes. Do not copy real student records, issue an endorsement or imply that completing your practice worksheet counts toward an aviation qualification.

Prepare for an interview

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

- How would you respond when a learner repeats a definition correctly but cannot explain its meaning? Prepare a teaching-focused answer using a harmless example. Distinguish support for learning from any formal assessment or sign-off authority you have not been granted.
- What would you check before accepting responsibility for a new ground course? Discuss scope, current qualifications, materials, supervision and employer approval. Ask whether the role includes simulator or aircraft instruction and how the employer resolves the certificate wording in its own job description.

Investigate possible next roles

Potential directions include specialist ground instruction, curriculum development or instructor standardisation. Device instruction and in-aircraft instruction require separate checks; a ground-school appointment is not automatic authority for either.

Sources and scope

[R104-EMP1] [Pan Am Flight Academy Ground School Instructor - ATP/CTP, Boeing 737, Airbus A320](#)

Archived source historical example. United States. Checked 2026-10-27.

[R104-EMP2] [Del Mar College GROUND PILOT SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR \(PART-TIME POOL\)](#)

Standing role description not a vacancy. United States. Checked 2026-10-27.

[R104-REG1] [Federal Aviation Administration / eCFR 14 CFR Part 61, Subpart I - Ground Instructors](#)

Sections 61.211-61.217: eligibility, privileges and recent experience. eCFR displayed current through 2026-10-23 when read; selected provisions, not an individual eligibility determination. Checked 2026-10-27.

Educational reference. Verify current requirements with the relevant authority and employer. Selected vacancies illustrate particular employers, countries and seniority levels, not worldwide eligibility or guaranteed hiring. No job guarantee.