

GROUND CONTROL

Typical Duties:

Move aircraft around the airport before takeoff/after landing.

You Are Responsible For:

- Directing aircraft on taxiways
- Preventing ground collisions
- Sending aircraft to the runway
- Receiving aircraft after landing

HANDOFF TO TOWER CONTROLLER

*Ground controllers rarely use radar. They rely on airport maps, windows, and surface surveillance systems to safely move aircraft.

LOCAL CONTROL

Typical Duties:

Control aircraft taking off, landing, and flying close to the airport.

You Are Responsible For:

- Clearing aircraft for takeoff
- Clearing aircraft to land
- Monitoring nearby traffic
- Keeping aircraft safely separated around the airport

HANDOFF TO TRACON (DEPARTURE/APPROACH)

*Tower controllers usually work from the airport control tower, giving them a direct view of the runways.

TRACON (DEPARTURE/APPROACH)

Typical Duties:

Guide aircraft as they leave or return to the airport.

You Are Responsible For

- Providing radar guidance
- Assigning headings and altitudes
- Sequencing arriving aircraft
- Directing departing aircraft toward their route

HANDOFF TO CENTER (ENROUTE) CONTROLLER

*TRACON facilities usually control aircraft within about 30–50 miles of busy airports.

CENTER (ENROUTE)

Typical Duties:

Guide aircraft safely between cities during the climb/cruise/descent portion of flight.

You Are Responsible For

- Monitoring aircraft over large regions
- Maintaining safe separation
- Coordinating with neighboring facilities

HANDOFF TO TRACON (ARRIVAL/APPROACH)

*Center controllers usually never see the airplanes they control. They use radar while guiding flights across large regions of airspace.

TRACON (ARRIVAL/APPROACH)

Typical Duties:

Guide arriving aircraft from Center toward the airport.

You Are Responsible For

- Sequencing aircraft for landing
- Assigning headings and altitudes
- Lining aircraft up with the runway
- Spacing aircraft safely

HANDOFF TO LOCAL CONTROL

*Approach controllers help create an orderly "line" of aircraft so each lands safely.