

Satellite Operations Specialist (Technologist)

A Satellite Operations Specialist helps monitor and control satellites that orbit Earth. They use computers and communication systems to make sure satellites are working properly and collecting important information used for weather forecasting, GPS navigation, television, internet, scientific research, and national security. Every satellite in space needs a human team on the ground to monitor its health, send commands, and steer it clear of trouble.

► School to Career Pathway

- Bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, computer science or a related field.
- Job experience and internships are positive and should be considered.

► Durable Skills

As a satellite technologist, you need:

- Strong communication skills in order to coordinate, explain and work with others.
- Follow precise instructions so that the right command is given to the spacecraft.
- Remain calm in high pressure stressful situations.

► Paycheck Peek

\$60,000 to \$100,000 annually

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Monitor Satellite Systems

Watch satellite performance using computer systems to make sure all equipment is working correctly.

Send Commands to Satellites

Upload instructions that tell satellites when to adjust their position, collect data, or perform other important tasks.

Analyze Satellite Data

Review information sent from satellites to identify problems and ensure the satellite is functioning as expected.

Troubleshoot Technical Issues

Investigate equipment or communication problems and work with engineers to solve them before they become bigger issues.

Support Space Missions

Work with engineers, scientists, and mission teams to help plan satellite activities and keep missions running smoothly.

A satellite with solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth's cloud-covered surface.

CAREER PROFILE | AERONAUTICS & AEROSPACE

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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Are you fascinated by technology?
- Do you like using and programming computers?
- Are solving problems and thinking critically a strength of yours?
- Do you like looking at charts and graphs and determining patterns that you see?
- Is working as part of a team an interest?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- software developer
- electrical engineer
- precision agriculture technician

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Space](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Software Developer](#)
- [O*NET Online: Electrical Engineer](#)
- [O*NET Online: Precision Agriculture Technician](#)