



Flight School FAQs

How long does the course take?

The time it takes to complete any of our courses is entirely up to the student. A student that is able to completely dedicate their efforts to training can finish in as little as 3-4 weeks. However, students who work or attend school full-time can expect to finish in 6-8 months.

Can I fly after work and/or weekends?

Our instructors maintain the flexibility to accommodate most student schedules. Flying during the summer often occurs well past 5 PM. However, the short days of the winter make late afternoon and evening flights unproductive. While we do offer weekend availability, flying only on the weekends will significantly increase course completion time and training costs. We recommend no less than 2 flight lessons a week. This ensures a consistent, non-repetitive learning experience.

What is training like?

Pilot training is fundamentally different than the traditional school/classroom environment. Training is conducted primarily one-on-one. A student is assigned a primary flight instructor and remains with that instructor throughout the course. Most students prefer this style of teaching as it offers a personalized experience and flexible scheduling.

There are 2 tests that a student pilot must pass in order to receive his/her pilot certificate. The Airman Knowledge Test (AKT) is a computerized multiple-choice test that consists of 60 questions. It is designed to test a student's aeronautical knowledge. A minimum score of 70% is required to pass. The ground training provided by a flight instructor will prepare students for this test. Our course includes 25 hours of one-on-one classroom instruction. The classroom instruction will prepare students for the Airman Knowledge Test.

The Private Pilot Course is divided into 3 stages:

- Stage 1 – Pre-Solo Local
- Stage 2 – Pre-Solo Cross-country
- Stage 3 - Practical Test Preparation

The Instrument Rating Course is divided into 3 stages:

- Stage 1 – Attitude Instrument Flying and Instrument Navigation
- Stage 2 – Holding Patterns and Instrument Approaches
- Stage 3 - IFR En-route Procedures and Practical Test Preparation

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The Commercial Pilot Course is divided into 3 stages:

- Stage 1 – Day/Night VFR Cross-Country Procedures
- Stage 2 – Complex Airplane Training and Precision Flight Maneuvers
- Stage 3 - Practical Test Preparation

Each stage ends upon successful completion of a stage check flight. The chief flight instructor or a check instructor conducts stage checks. They ensure that students are receiving the highest possible quality of training.

Can I take a Computer-Based Training Course (King Schools, Sporty's, etc.) in lieu of attending ground lessons?

We strongly recommend against this method. While the cost-savings might be tempting, Computer-Based Training is meant to function as a supplement to classroom instruction. It is not intended to completely replace it. Courses such as King Schools are far too general and non-specific particularly when it comes to important topics such as aircraft systems and airspace. They also remove the opportunity to ask questions and are unable to provide in-depth explanations. In to be adequately prepared for the Airman Knowledge Test and Practical Test, we recommend one-on-one classroom instruction.

What is the practical test?

A practical test, more commonly known as a “check ride,” is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) examination, which a pilot applicant must undergo to receive a pilot certification. The practical test can be administered by an FAA inspector but is most often conducted by a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE). The practical test begins with an oral exam. During the oral exam, the examiner will assess an applicant's practical aeronautical knowledge and ask scenario-type questions. During the flight test, the examiner will assess an applicant's flight proficiency. The examiner functions as more of a passenger than an instructor. The applicant must demonstrate the ability to operate the aircraft as the pilot-in-command. Satisfactory completion of both the oral exam and flight test will result in the issuance of a pilot certificate.

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