



Private Pilot Flight Training Syllabus

General Progression: The outline below presents the private pilot training progression. Most setup items may be delayed to no later than the first solo.

1. Setup
 - a. Obtain required materials
 - b. Aircraft Renters/Student Pilot Insurance
 - c. Paperwork
 - i. Identity Verification (TSA Authorization)
 - ii. Student Pilot Certificate (IACRA.faa.gov)
 - iii. FAA Medical Certificate
2. Flight/ground training
 - a. Pre solo
 - b. Solo
 - c. Post solo dual instruction
 - d. Solo cross country
 - e. Checkride preparation
3. Practical and knowledge test
 - a. Pass knowledge test (Written)
 - b. Pass Practical test (Oral and Flight)
 - i. Finding designated pilot examiner (DPE)

Required Materials: Most items can be purchased locally at Northern Lights Avionics and Aircraft Spruce or online at Sporty's Pilot Shop and Amazon. Digital publications/handbooks are free for download on the FAA website.

- Publications/handbook
 - Federal Aviation Regulations/Aeronautical Information Manual (FAR/AIM)
 - Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (PHAK)
 - Airplane Flying Handbook (AFH)
 - Private Pilot Airman Certification Standards (ACS)
 - Alaska Chart Supplement
 - Anchorage Sectional Chart

- Seward Sectional Chart
- ASA High-Wing Aircraft Visualized Flight Maneuvers
- ASA Private Pilot Oral Exam Guide
- Headset/tools/logbook
 - Aviation Headset
 - One is available to borrow until personal headset is purchased
 - Pilot logbook
 - Course Plotter (CP-RLX)
 - E6-B Flight Computer
 - Personal Kneeboard and note pages
- Optional (Highly recommended)
 - Ipad Mini
 - Ipad Kneeboard
 - Foreflight, used for flight planning and easy access to information (Electronic Flight Bag)
 - Includes, PHAK, AFH, and ACS

Ground Training: (3 Options) The FAA lists Aeronautical Knowledge Areas that must be covered before taking the written test. Any option below is acceptable.

- Online
 - Sporty's Private Pilot Online Ground Training (\$299) [Link](#)
- Individual study
 - Students may develop an individual home study curriculum compiled from material described in the applicable FAA airmen knowledge test guide.
- Flight instructor led
 - In person instruction

Although online and individual study will cover most areas, additional in person instruction should be expected to cover more complex, specific and hands-on topics.

- Online/Individual
 - Ground instruction required ~8 hrs
- Flight instructor led
 - Ground instruction required ~20 hrs

Flight Training: Below is an outline of what will be covered and the general progression to expect. The ultimate goal is to meet/exceed the standards set in the Private Pilot ACS.

Stage 1 - Pre-solo

1. Introduction and Familiarization::
 - Introduction, procedures, qualification checks, initial orientation flight
2. Basic Aircraft Operations
 - Preflight prep & procedures, fundamentals of flight

3. Basic Maneuvers and airport operations
 - Introduce basic maneuvers, and basics of airport operations/procedures
4. Basic Maneuvers / Stalls
 - Expand on basic maneuvers including introduction to stalls
5. Landings
 - Landings inevitably take a number of lessons to get solid and will almost certainly have other lessons interspersed when conditions and circumstances warrant.
6. Ground Reference Maneuvers
 - The goal is proficiency, not just to check off boxes pre-solo
7. Emergency Approach and landing Procedures
 - ABCDE checklist, forced landing flight strategy
8. Advanced Maneuvers
 - Emergency descents, demonstration stalls

Stage 2 - Solo

1. Review for Solo Check
 - Preparation for solo proficiency check
2. Solo Check
 - proficiency check showing the student can conduct safe solo operations
3. First Solo
 - All FAA solo requirements must be met and Instructor deems student is prepared

Stage 3 - Post-Solo Dual Instruction

The following lessons will be done in no specific order.

1. Performance Takeoffs and Landings
 - Introduce short/soft field takeoffs and landings, as well as forward slips
2. Second Solo
 - Give the student another opportunity for solo flight
3. Local Area Solo(s)
 - Experience leaving the traffic pattern, alone
4. VOR/GPS Introduction
 - Basic introduction to VOR and/or GPS use
5. Dual Instrument
 - Introduction to instrument flight
6. Dual Night
 - Instruction to the art of night flight
7. Dual Cross Country
 - "There and Back Again" - JRRT
8. Dual Night Cross Country
 - There and back again, in the dark.

Stage 4 - Solo Cross Country

1. Solo Cross Country
 - First time out on your own
2. Solo Cross Country
 - Flight to an unfamiliar destination
3. Long Solo Cross Country

Stage 5 - Preparation for Checkride

Although there are only two lessons listed, several lessons may be required to achieve proficiency.

1. Maneuvers Practice
 - Prep for checkride, reviewing all flight maneuvers
2. Pre-Checkride Progress Check
 - Mock checkride with a second set of eyes

*Wait times to schedule a DPE to conduct the practical test (Checkride) will vary throughout the seasons and can be up to several weeks. For this reason students are encouraged to schedule their checkride around half way through their training.

FAA minimum requirements: Although these are minimums, achieving checkride proficiency often falls around 50 hrs of total flight time.

- **40 hours total flight time**
- 10 hours solo flight time
- Other requirements listed in [14 CFR 61.109](#)

Length of Training: Refer to the table below for estimated completion times based on lessons per week. Completion time is ultimately dictated by the student and their desired pace.

Lessons (per week)	Completion Time (weeks)
5	~7
3-4	~10-12
2	~17

Insurance: Renters/Student Pilot insurance will be required before the first solo flight. Costs vary but are generally very reasonable (~\$1,100 for a 12 month policy).

- Avemco, a good policy holder - [Aircraft Renter's Insurance](#)
- For more info - [Aircraft Renters Insurance: Everything You Need to Know - Pilot Institute](#)

Minimum insurance limit requirements

- Aircraft Damage Liability (C150D): **\$30,000**

Selecting a policy having at least a **\$500,000** limit for each occurrence and **\$100,000** for bodily injury (each person) is highly recommended. Not doing so may put the student at risk. Talk to your insurance provider and find the correct coverage you are comfortable with and can afford.

Costs: Flight and ground instruction rates may vary with demand and season changes. The rates set at the beginning of training may be subject to change.

Showing up prepared and ready to learn is the easiest way to reduce time spent for each lesson and therefore costs. It is not unheard of for students to take their checkride right at 40 hours.

Pre/post instruction will be billed when the flight instructor is with the student and is preparing for a lesson, engaged in any lesson briefings, conducting a preflight inspection, and covering any other general ground instruction given before or after a flight lesson.

Current rates as of 12/9/2025

Flight instruction:----- \$50/hr
Ground instruction:----- \$40/hr
Pre/post instruction:----- \$40/hr
Aircraft rental (C150D):----- \$110/hr

Price Break Down: Based on realistic billed hours rather than absolute minimums.

Ground training (applicable to method selected)

- Online
 - Private Pilot ground school ----- \$299
 - ground instruction ----- ~8 hrs, \$320
- Individual study
 - ground instruction ----- ~8 hrs, \$320
- Instructor led
 - Ground instruction ----- ~20 hrs, \$800

Pre/post ----- ~ 8 hrs, \$320
Flight instruction ----- ~35 hrs, \$1,750
Aircraft rental ----- ~50 hrs, \$5,500
Aviation medical certificate ----- \$180
Renters/student pilot insurance ----- ~\$1,100
Knowledge test (Written) ----- \$175
Practical test (Checkride) ----- ~\$1000

Total ----- ~\$10,600

*Calculated with average cost of ground training options. Cost doesn't include required materials as prices will vary.

Payment: Cash and check are preferred payment methods. Card, apple pay, and Venmo are also acceptable but will include a 3% processing fee.

Invoices will be issued after each billable experience. Payment is expected in a timely manner. Invoices not paid within 7 days of the issue date may incur a \$25 late fee.

Have fun learning to fly!