

AVIATION SCIENCE

Requirements for Airmen Certifications

You must be at least 17 years old, at the time of certification, and possess a current FAA medical certificate.

Private Pilot

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, takes about six months.

Private Pilot FAA Requirements:

* Minimum 40 hours (hrs.) total flight time

The national average is 65 to 75 hrs

20 hrs. of dual flight time (with an instructor)

3 hrs. of cross-country flight training

3 hrs. at night with 10 takeoffs and landings

100 nautical mile (nm.) night cross-country flight

3 hrs. of instrument training

3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride

10 hrs. of solo flight time (without an instructor)

5 hrs. of cross-country flying

150 nm. cross-country flight

Private Pilot Flight Training Sequence:

1. Presolo

2. Solo (an experience you'll never forget)

3. Advanced maneuvers and cross-country flying

4. Solo cross-country flight

5. Instrument and night flying

6. 150 nm. cross-country flight

7. Review for the FAA written test

8. Review for the FAA checkride

Instrument Pilot

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, is normally about four months.

Instrument Pilot FAA Requirements:

The national average is 50 - 60 hrs.

* 50 hrs. of cross-country flight time as pilot-in-command

* 40 hrs. of simulated or actual instrument flight time 20

hrs. may occur in an FAA approved, advanced aviation training device (AATD).

15 hrs. of instrument instruction in an airplane

250 nm. instrument cross-country flight

3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride

Instrument Pilot Flight Training Sequence:

1. Instrument scanning and interpretation

2. Radio and GPS navigation

3. Holding patterns

4. Instrument approaches

5. Cross-country flying

6. Review for the FAA written test

7. Review for the FAA checkride

Commercial Pilot

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, is normally about three months.

Commercial Pilot FAA Requirements:

* 250 hrs. total flight time (50 hrs. of FTD time allowed)

100 hrs. in powered aircraft

100 hrs. pilot-in-command (no flight instructor)

50 hrs. in an airplane

50 hrs. of cross-country flying

20 hrs. of training (ground and flight)

10 hrs. of instrument training

10 hrs. of instruction in a complex airplane

100 nm., 2 hr. day cross-country flight

100 nm., 2 hr. night cross-country flight

3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride

10 hrs. of solo flying

One 300 nm. flight that's at least 250 nm.

5 hrs. of night flying with 10 takeoffs and landings

Note: FAA time requirements are considerably less than the national average — grossly inadequate for learning to fly in today's U.S. airspace. To solve that dilemma, the FAA publishes an Airmen Certification Standard (ACS) for each certificate and rating, which mandates training to proficiency, not flight time. The national average reflects that requirement.