

PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

The information below is the minimum required by the FAA to apply for the private pilot certificate. Even though the minimum is 40 hours, the national average stands between 71 and 75 hours of total flight time. Due to the airspace concentration in the Bay Area, this minimum is often around 70-80 hours. The good news is that once you have learned to navigate in our challenging airspace, you can fly and navigate almost anywhere in the country.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ([14 CFR 61.103](#))

- 17 years of age
- Speak, read and understand English
- Hold an [aviation medical certificate](#)

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ([14 CFR 61.109\(a\)](#))

- 40 hours of total flight training
 - 20 hrs of dual flight training
 - 3 hrs of night instruction
 - 3 hrs of flight with reference to instruments only
 - 3 hrs of cross-country/navigation
 - 3 hrs of preparation prior to the practical test
 - 10 hrs of solo flight
 - 5 hrs of solo cross country
 - 10 hrs to be either solo or dual (to complete the 40 hrs)

Pass an FAA written test with 70% or more on the areas of operation described in [14 CFR 61.105b](#).

Successfully complete a practical test ("checkride") administered by an FAA-designated pilot examiner using a Practical Test Standard.

Practical Test Standard - Private Pilot Certificate

[FAA-S-8081-14A.pdf](#)

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