



## PILOT WIKIHOW

### Requirements!

Private Pilot Certificate:

- Be able to read, speak and write the English Language
- Obtain at least a third class medical (a medical examination conducted by an Aviation Medical Examiner)
- Pass the Federal Aviation Administration ground school knowledge exam
- Be at least 16 years to solo (fly by yourself)
- Obtain at least 40 hours of flight time (at least 20 hours with an instructor and 10 hours of solo flight. Solo Includes at least 3 hours of cross country flying and 3 hours of night flight training) Part 141 training
- Pass a “Checkride”, an oral and practical flight test, with a FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) inspector or examiner
- Must be 17 years old to obtain license

**TIP!** A Student Pilot Certificate is required to begin flight training at any school, and often a prerequisite for scholarships and organizations. To obtain a student pilot certificate, you must fill out an application on IACRA. Visit <https://iacra.faa.gov> and click REGISTER. A Certified Flight Instructor, or a CFI, must virtually sign the application, so getting in touch with a CFI is essential before you start training.

Glider Certificate:

- Meet the medical requirements (No formal “medical” is required)
- Meet the minimum age requirements (14 to solo, 16 to receive license)
- Be able to read, write and understand English
- Pass a written ground exam
- Obtain at least 10 hours over the course of 20 glider flights including 2 hours of solo flights

- Pass a “Checkride”, an oral and practical flight exam with an FAA inspector or examiner

**TIP!** Getting a Third Class Medical must be done with an FAA Medical Examiner, or an AME. Visit <https://designee.faa.gov/#/designeeLocator> and select AME to find an examiner near you. If you want to pursue aviation long term, receiving a First Class Medical is advisable! It must be renewed annually but is required for the commercial airlines.

FAA Pilot Certificates Available:

- Student Pilot
- Sport Pilot
- Recreational Pilot
- Private Pilot
- Commercial Pilot
- Airline Transport Pilot

FAA Ratings

- Instrument
- Multi-Engine
- Aircraft specific (seaplane, glider, gyroplane, balloon, airship, helicopter, etc.)
- Certified Flight Instructor (CFI, CFII, MEI)

FAA Endorsements:

- High Performance
- Complex Endorsement
- Tailwheel Endorsement

## Getting Involved!

Popular aviation organizations include...

- The Ninety Nines
  - They promote advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.
    - Must have a student pilot’s certificate to be a member.
    - Scholarship Opportunities!

## □ Experimental Aircraft Association

- Young Eagles Program allows students ages 8-17 to introduce students and young people to aviation.
  - Visit <https://youngeaglesday.org/?> to find a Young Eagles flight near you.
  - Volunteer and scholarship opportunities!
  - Great opportunity to make connections and meet experienced pilots!

## □ Civil Air Patrol

- An Auxiliary branch of the Air Force that works to devote their time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities, while also promoting aviation and related fields through aerospace education and helping shape future leaders through CAP's cadet program. (source: [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com))
  - Volunteer, scholarship, and leadership opportunities.

## □ Women In Aviation International

- A nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation and aerospace career fields and interests.
  - Scholarship and membership opportunities. Student memberships available.
  - Visit [www.wai.org/membership-information](http://www.wai.org/membership-information) for more information!

**TIP!** Start flight school near your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday! This will save money in the long run and make training more consistent.

Complete your ground school exam before you start flight school. It will allow you to brush up on areas you missed throughout your training and allow you to apply for flight scholarships.

## Find a Flight School!

- Conducting research into fuel costs, plane rentals, and instructor rates in your area is incredibly important when choosing a flight school.
  - Visit the flight schools to see their facilities, and meet with the Flight School's representatives to answer any questions you might have.

You can also join a flying club, rent a plane, and do flight training through a private CFI.