



# Private Pilot Information Booklet



# Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in our flight school! All of us at Wisconsin Aviation are dedicated to helping you achieve your aviation goals. This booklet includes information on becoming a Private Pilot, outlining what you'll need to get started on your journey toward becoming an FAA-certificated Private Pilot.

## Private Pilot Certificate Federal Aviation Administration Requirements

### General

- ◆ Be at least 17 years of age.
- ◆ Be able to read, speak, and understand the English language.
- ◆ Obtain at least a current third-class medical certificate.
- ◆ Pass a knowledge test as well as the practical test, which consists of an oral and flight skills exam conducted by an FAA-designated examiner.

### Flight

- ◆ Minimum of 40 hours of flight training which must include the following:
  - ~ 3 hours cross-country flight training (flying to other airports at least 50 nautical miles away).
  - ~ 3 hours instrument flight training (flying only by reference to the instrument panel).
  - ~ 3 hours night flying to include:
    - 1 cross-country at least 100 nautical miles total distance.
    - 10 takeoffs and landings.
- ◆ Minimum of 10 hours solo flight, which includes:
  - ~ 5 hours solo cross-country to include:
    - 1 solo cross-country of at least 150 nautical miles total distance, with landings at three airports.
  - ~ 3 takeoffs and landings at an airport with an operating control tower.

*Note: The minimum hourly requirement as set by the Federal Aviation Administration is 40 hours. Most pilots require more than the minimum. The national average is approximately 70 hours; Wisconsin Aviation's average is approximately 55 hours.*

# Flight Training Program Content

## Stage I: Pre-Solo

During the pre-solo stage, you will learn a number of items including:

- ◆ Pre-flight preparation
- ◆ Taxiing (ground operations)
- ◆ Takeoffs and landings
- ◆ Safety procedures and regulations
- ◆ Basic maneuvers
- ◆ Basic radio communications

During this stage, you'll work your way up to taking off and landing the airplane by yourself—your first solo flight!

## Stage II: Post-Solo

After your first solo, you'll progress to learn:

- ◆ Advanced takeoff and landing techniques
- ◆ Advanced radio communications
- ◆ Cross-country flight planning and navigation
- ◆ Night flying

During this stage, you'll also be preparing for your knowledge test and conducting additional solo flights, including cross-country flights to other airports.

## Stage III: Checkride Preparation

This stage will help you prepare for the final oral and flight skills test, or "checkride," with an FAA-designated examiner and will include:

- ◆ Practice "checkrides" with your instructor
- ◆ Solo practice flights
- ◆ Any additional instruction needed to fulfill training requirements

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can I "try out" a lesson to see what flying is like?**

Yes. We offer a \$69 introductory flight in a two-seat Cessna 152 to allow you to experience a lesson with an FAA-certified flight instructor. You'll actually get to fly the airplane! It includes approximately 30 minutes of ground instruction and 30 minutes of aircraft time. We also offer introductory flights in our four-seat Cessna 172 or Piper Warrior for \$79.

## **How long does it take to obtain a Private Pilot certificate?**

That depends on how often you can fly. Typically, if a student studies and schedules an average of 2 lessons each week, training can be completed in 4-6 months. While some students take one lesson a week, others may desire an accelerated course and fly several times per week. In any case, we will tailor the program to fit your needs. It just depends on your schedule and goals.

## **In what aircraft will I train?**

We typically use the two-seat Cessna 152, a 110-hp airplane that is among the world's most common trainers. This is suitable for most new student pilots. However, for those who are taller and/or heavier, you will be more comfortable training in our four-seat Cessna 172 or the Piper Warrior.

## **How many lessons should I schedule at one time?**

You'll find it convenient to schedule lessons 2-4 weeks in advance. This will keep you on a regular pace and ensure that your instructor and aircraft are available when you are.

## **How much "homework" is there outside of flying?**

Your instructor will give you reading assignments, take-home quizzes, and other materials to prepare for upcoming lessons. There's about a 1:1 ratio with self-study and flying. For example, scheduling 2 lessons per week will usually result in 2-3 hours of flying; with that you can expect 2-3 hours of studying.

## **How much ground instruction will there be?**

Each lesson will include ground instruction both before and after the flight. There will also be longer ground instruction sessions as applicable throughout your training. The number of hours of ground instruction is typically about half of the flying hours required to complete the course; however, the time required for both ground and flight instruction will vary by individual.

## **Is there an age requirement?**

Yes. While you can take flying lessons at any age, a student pilot must be 16 to solo and 17 to be eligible for the Private Pilot certificate. Otherwise, there are no other age requirements.

### **Do you offer a ground school?**

Yes. Wisconsin Aviation conducts 12-week formal ground schools 2-3 times per year. Ground schools offer a classroom setting where you interact with other students and review the materials as a group. Ground schools are a great value and offer a fun way to structure your learning. Check with us for current dates for ground school.

### **Do you still hold lessons during inclement weather?**

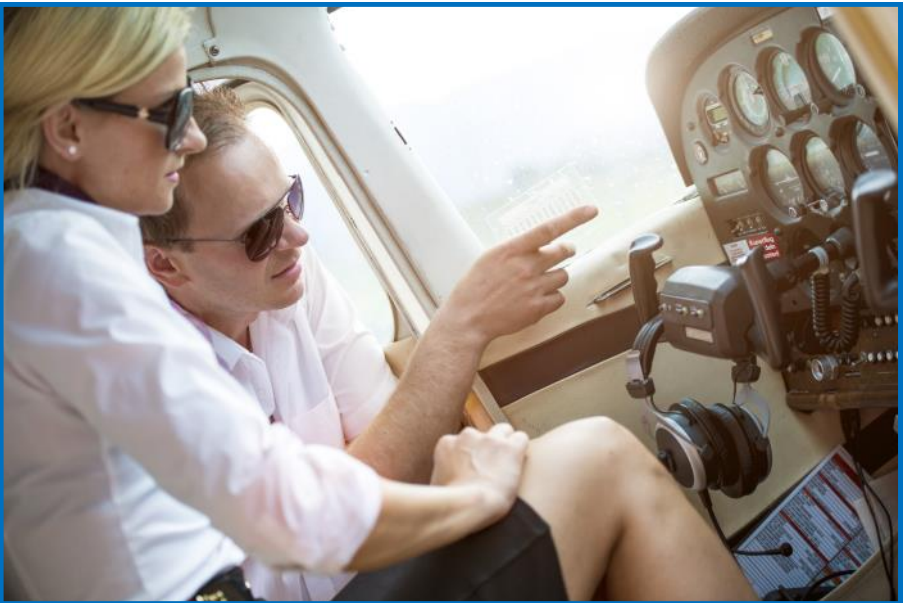
Yes. During periods of low visibility, low clouds, rain, snow, storms, etc., instructors will conduct ground lessons with their students. If no ground instruction is necessary that day, the instructor will contact the student to reschedule the lesson.

### **Will I be flying with different instructors?**

You will be assigned a primary instructor who will be responsible for your training program. Occasionally, your instructor may schedule a lesson with another instructor to obtain their objective perspective of your progress. These are called "stage checks" and can be helpful during the training process.

### **Are there any health/medical requirements?**

Yes. A student pilot, to be eligible to solo, must obtain a medical certificate by undergoing a physical from an FAA-designated physician certified to issue them. If you are in good health, obtaining a medical is not difficult, and it's fine if you wear glasses or contacts.





### **How much will it cost to get my Private Pilot's license?**

Costs will vary depending on your rate of skill development and the time and effort you devote to training. Average costs for this program are outlined on the adjacent page.

### **After I get my Private Pilot certificate, can I rent a plane on my own?**

Yes. After earning your Private Pilot certificate, you can rent the same airplane model without additional instruction. You can also schedule instruction to become proficient in other aircraft types. The training required for aircraft "checkouts" will vary by type of aircraft.

### **How do I get started?**

Simply call our flight school at 800-594-5359 to set up an appointment to meet with a flight instructor, discuss your aviation goals, and schedule your first lesson.



## Approximate Price for Private Pilot Flight Training\*

Aircraft (C-152) rental — approx. 40 hours*	3,560
Instructor time (flight & ground) — approx. 40 hours*	2,080
Training materials (Private Pilot kit & workbook)	300
FAA written exam	165
FAA examiner's fee for flight test (average price)	<u>450</u>
<b>Estimated Total*</b>	<b>\$6,555</b>

*\*Cost estimates are based on FAA minimums using current rates and may be subject to change. Applicable taxes are not included and may vary between locations. Actual flight training costs will vary by individual.*

## Payment Options

There are multiple payment options to consider as you pursue your goal of becoming a pilot. Here are several:

### Pay As You Go

When you enroll in our flight school, an account is set up for you to pay as you go with each flight lesson. You may pay with cash, check, or credit card.

### Pre-Pay Option

We offer a 5% pre-payment incentive on amounts of \$500 and over (cash or check only) which are deposited to your account before training begins and anytime thereafter provided the account remains positive. As an example, if you deposit \$1,000 to your account, we post \$1,050 total credit on your account.

### Personal Credit Card

Some students prefer to obtain a Visa or MasterCard for financing all of their training using their private credit card.

### Financing Available

We can provide information about financing your entire flight training expenses through Pilot Finance, Inc. They require an application and approve funding based upon individual credit score. This is an unsecured loan with approximate payments of \$155/month for a private pilot rating. For more information contact them at:

**Pilot Finance, Inc.**  
800-667-0201  
[info@pilotfinance.com](mailto:info@pilotfinance.com)  
[PilotFinance.com](http://PilotFinance.com)

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**For more detailed information, contact one of our training centers or visit our website:**

Madison  
800-594-5359

Watertown  
800-657-0761

Juneau  
800-319-0907

***WisconsinAviation.com***