


How to obtain an  
appropriate medical  
certificate



# Lesson Objective

To develop understanding of medical standards...both mental and physical required for operating an aircraft



# What does a student pilot need?

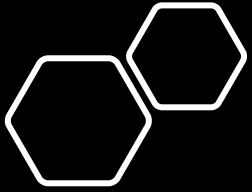
When it comes to driving, there are no medical tests. At some point in your life your eyes and ears will get worse, but you can still drive.

Flying on other hand...

## § 61.23 Medical certificates: Requirement and duration

(3) Must hold at least a third-class medical certificate -

(i) When exercising the privileges of a private pilot certificate, recreational pilot certificate, or student pilot certificate, except when operating under the conditions and limitations set forth in 61.113(i) (BasicMed)



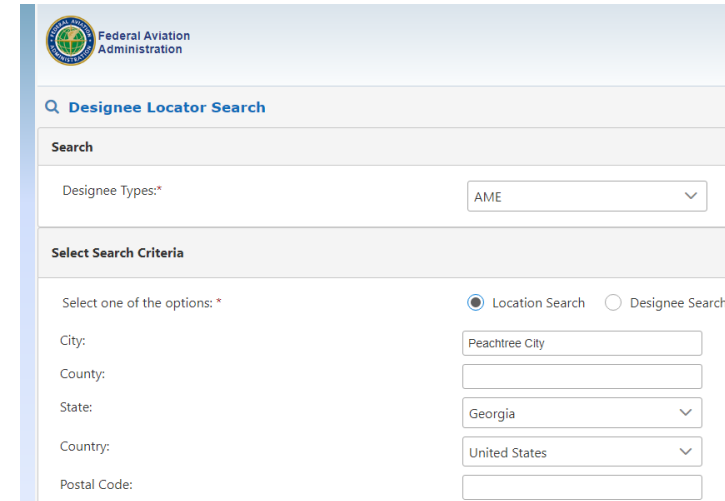
# What is the first step?

You can not go to your normal doctor

Find a FAA designated Aviation  
Medical Examiner aka AME

<https://designee.faa.gov/#/designeeLocator>

I suggest asking other people you  
know who they used



The screenshot shows the FAA Designee Locator Search interface. At the top is the Federal Aviation Administration logo. Below it is a search bar with the text "Designee Locator Search". Under the search bar is a "Search" section with a "Designee Types:" dropdown menu set to "AME". Below that is a "Select Search Criteria" section with a radio button selection for "Location Search" (selected) and "Designee Search". Under "Location Search" are input fields for "City:" (Peachtree City), "County:" (empty), "State:" (Georgia), "Country:" (United States), and "Postal Code:" (empty).

<div>Search Cancel</div>									
Designee Name ↑↓	Address ↑↓	County ↑↓	City ↑↓	State ↑↓	Postal Code ↑↓	Phone Number ↑↓	Country ↑↓	Class Type ↑↓	Office Name ↑↓
Designee	Address	County	City	State	Postal Code	Phone Number	Country	Class Type	Office
Stanley C Musick	1150 Echo Court Suite B	Fayette	Peachtree City	GA	30269	(770) 460-8610	United States	First Class	Southern Region
Richard Gorman	1401 GEORGIAN PARK DR	FAYETTE	PEACHTREE CITY	GA	302690000	(770) 632-8909	United States	First Class	Southern Region
Don Walker	64 EASTBROOK BEND	FAYETTE	PEACHTREE CITY	GA	302690000	(770) 487-3272	United States	First Class	Southern Region
Janet Gerard	1401 GEORGIAN PARK DR	FAYETTE	PEACHTREE CITY	GA	302690000	(770) 632-8909	United States	First Class	Southern Region

What will they  
test?

Hearing

Eyes

Lungs

Heart

Urine test

No blood test



Why?

FAA does not want you passing out then crashing into a house, apartment building, or school

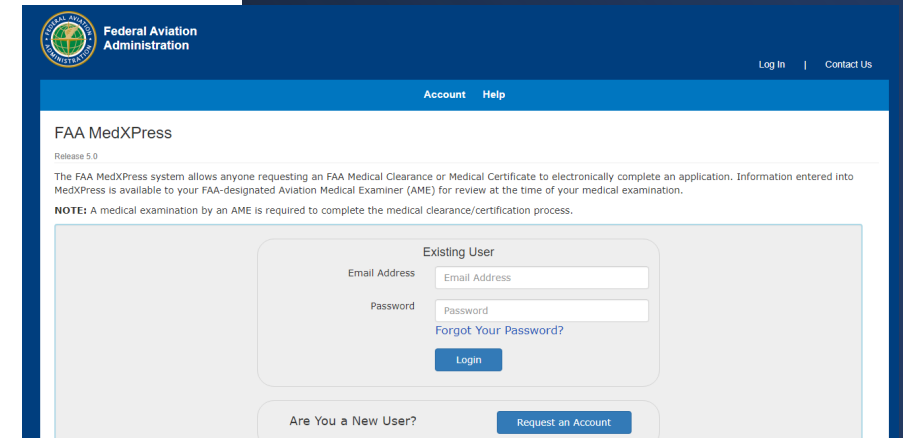
# What about preexisting conditions?

Before you go to the doctor you will need to fill out an application online called FAA MedXPress

<https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/>

Understand whatever problems you document now you will have to discuss on your medical exam and each one thereafter

If I have some medical issues, will I be able to obtain a 3<sup>rd</sup> class medical? Yes. I do.



The screenshot shows the FAA MedXPress login interface. At the top is the Federal Aviation Administration logo and name. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Account' and 'Help' links. The main heading is 'FAA MedXPress' with a sub-note 'Release 5.0'. A paragraph explains the system's purpose: 'The FAA MedXPress system allows anyone requesting an FAA Medical Clearance or Medical Certificate to electronically complete an application. Information entered into MedXPress is available to your FAA-designated Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) for review at the time of your medical examination.' A note states: 'NOTE: A medical examination by an AME is required to complete the medical clearance/certification process.' The login section is titled 'Existing User' and contains fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot Your Password?' link, and a 'Login' button. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Are You a New User?' with a 'Request an Account' button.

# That eye machine...

These machines are provided to the AMEs

Many people including myself have found them to be more difficult than they should be but there is an alternative

FAA Form 8500-7

[https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA\\_Form\\_8500-7.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA_Form_8500-7.pdf)

Last medical I did they were able to use what the eye doctor sent that described my vision after correction. I still needed to use the machine for uncorrected vision tests.



Does a 3<sup>rd</sup>  
class  
medical  
expire?

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Valid for 60 months for pilots under  
age 40

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Valid for 24 months for pilots 40+

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# Medical deficiencies

The following conditions are listed in the regulations as disqualifying medical conditions; however, in many cases when the condition is adequately controlled, the FAA will issue medical certification contingent on periodic reports.

- Angina pectoris
- Bipolar disease
- Cardiac valve replacement
- Coronary heart disease that has been treated or, if untreated, that has been symptomatic or clinically significant
- Diabetes mellitus requiring hypoglycemic medications
- Disturbance of consciousness without satisfactory explanation of cause
- Epilepsy

# Medical deficiencies

- Heart replacement
- Myocardial infarction
- Permanent cardiac pacemaker
- Personality disorder that is severe enough to have repeatedly manifested itself by overt acts
- Psychosis
- Substance abuse
- Substance dependence
- Transient loss of control of nervous system function(s) without satisfactory explanation of cause.

# CACI

Conditions AMEs Can Issue (CACI) is a series of conditions which allow AMEs to regular issue if the applicant meets the parameters of the CACI Condition Worksheet. The worksheets provide detailed instructions to the examiner and outline condition-specific requirements for the applicant.

[https://www.faa.gov/ame\\_guide/certification\\_ws](https://www.faa.gov/ame_guide/certification_ws)

# Special Issuance

Following the granting of an Authorization for Special Issuance of a Medical Certificate (Authorization), an Examiner may reissue a medical certificate to an applicant with a medical history of an initially disqualifying condition once the AASI's specialized criteria is met and the applicant is otherwise qualified.

See more at

[https://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/special\\_iss/](https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/special_iss/)

Good news

You can still fly

Bad news

It comes with requirements for periodic interim medical reports and time limitations (usually 12 months)

It can be withdrawn anytime the FAA sees evidence of an "adverse" change in your condition.

# SODA

At the discretion of the FAA, a Statement of Demonstrated Ability (SODA) may be granted, instead of an Authorization, to a person whose disqualifying condition is static or nonprogressive and who has been found capable of performing airman duties without endangering public safety.

A SODA does not expire and authorizes a designated Examiner to issue a medical certificate of a specified class if the Examiner finds that the condition described on the SODA has not adversely changed.

If you have an eye issue, arm issue, leg issue, whatever you can do a flight test.

If you fall into this situation, then contact the closest FSDO.

# When is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Medical Required

## § 61.23 Medical certificates: Requirement and duration.

(a) (3) Must hold at least a third-class medical certificate—

(i) When exercising the privileges of a private pilot certificate, recreational pilot certificate, or student pilot certificate, except when operating under the conditions and limitations set forth in § 61.113(i);

(ii) When exercising the privileges of a flight instructor certificate and acting as the pilot in command or as a required flightcrew member, except when operating under the conditions and limitations set forth in § 61.113(i);

(iii) When taking a practical test in an aircraft for a recreational pilot, private pilot, commercial pilot, or airline transport pilot certificate, or for a flight instructor certificate, except when operating under the conditions and limitations set forth in § 61.113(i); or

(iv) When performing the duties as an Examiner in an aircraft when administering a practical test or proficiency check for an airman certificate, rating, or authorization.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Medical

## § 61.23 Medical certificates: Requirement and duration.

(a) (2) Must hold at least a second class medical certificate when exercising:

(i) Second-in-command privileges of an airline transport pilot certificate in part 121 of this chapter (other than operations specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section);

(ii) Privileges of a commercial pilot certificate in an aircraft other than a balloon or glider; or

(iii) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section, privileges of a commercial pilot certificate with a balloon class rating for compensation or hire;

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Medical

How long does it last?

12 months regardless of age

Vision required = 20/20 in each eye with or without correction (glasses) vs 20/40

Falls back to a 3<sup>rd</sup> class after the 12 months

# 1st Class Medical

## § 61.23 Medical certificates: Requirement and duration.

(a) (1) Must hold a first-class medical certificate:

(i) When exercising the pilot-in-command privileges of an airline transport pilot certificate;

(ii) When exercising the second-in-command privileges of an airline transport pilot certificate in a flag or supplemental operation in part 121 of this chapter that requires three or more pilots; or

(iii) When serving as a required pilot flightcrew member in an operation conducted under part 121 of this chapter if the pilot has reached his or her 60th birthday.

# 1st Class Medical

How long does it last?

12 months if under 40, 6 months if 40+

Vision required = 20/20 in each eye with or without correction (glasses) vs 20/40

EKG required at 35 and yearly after 40

Falls back to a 3<sup>rd</sup> class after the 12/6 months

# Who does not need a medical certificate?

## § 61.23 Medical certificates: Requirement and duration.

(b) Operations not requiring a medical certificate. A person is not required to hold a medical certificate -

(1) When exercising the privileges of a student pilot certificate while seeking -

(i) A sport pilot certificate with glider or balloon privileges; or

(ii) A pilot certificate with a glider category rating or balloon class rating;

(2) When exercising the privileges of a sport pilot certificate with privileges in a glider or balloon;

# Who does not need a medical certificate?

- (3) When exercising the privileges of a pilot certificate with a glider category rating or balloon class rating in a glider or a balloon, as appropriate;
- (4) When exercising the privileges of a flight instructor certificate with -
  - (i) A sport pilot rating in a glider or balloon; or
  - (ii) A glider category rating;
- (5) When exercising the privileges of a flight instructor certificate if the person is not acting as pilot in command or serving as a required pilot flight crewmember;

# BasicMed

What do I need to do to fly under BasicMed?

U.S. driver's license

Held a medical after July 14, 2006

Get a physical exam with a state-licensed physician, using the Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist

Complete a BasicMed medical education course

See your doctor

# BasicMed

## Aircraft Limitations

Any aircraft authorized under federal law to carry not more than 7 occupants

Has a maximum certificated takeoff weight of not more than 12,500 pounds

## Operating Limitations

Carries not more than six passengers

Operates under VFR or IFR, within the United States, at less than 18,000 feet MSL, not exceeding 250 knots.

Flight not operated for compensation or hire

# BasicMed

How long is BasicMed good for?

Physical exam must be completed every 48 months (to the day)

Online education course is required to be completed every 24 calendar months

<https://www.aopa.org/advocacy/pilots/medical/basicmed>

FAA Form 8700-2

[https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA\\_Form\\_8700-2\\_.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA_Form_8700-2_.pdf)

# BasicMed

Quiz to check if eligible

<https://www.aopa.org/advocacy/pilots/medical/basicmed/basicmed-eligibility-and-renewal-tool>

Note: You can have BasicMed at the same time you have a valid 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> class medical

# Summary Chart

	MEDICAL TYPE	AIRMAN AGE	PRIVILEGES	EXPIRATION
MEDICAL CERTIFICATES	FIRST CLASS	UNDER 40	ATP	12 MONTHS
		OVER 40	ATP	6 MONTHS
		ANY AGE	COMMERCIAL	12 MONTHS
		UNDER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	60 MONTHS
		OVER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	24 MONTHS
	SECOND CLASS	ANY AGE	COMMERCIAL	12 MONTHS
		UNDER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	60 MONTHS
		OVER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	24 MONTHS
	THIRD CLASS	UNDER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	60 MONTHS
		OVER 40	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	24 MONTHS
	FAA BASIC MED	HAVE OR HAVE HELD MEDICAL AFTER 15 JULY 2006	PRIVATE / RECREATIONAL	48 MONTHS (24 MONTHS TRAINING)



Any questions I can answer or  
follow up later on?