

## Let's Get Started!

It is a genuine pleasure to be with you on this journey! Whether you are beginning the process of becoming a new pilot, or you are growing in proficiency, I welcome you! Becoming a pilot is a challenge and a joy, and I look forward to seeing the pilot that you will become. Together, we will learn from each other, grow as pilots and continue to build a strong aviation community. Below is important information to know to help you get started. Please review all information prior to beginning flight lessons.

### Scheduling & Payment

At this time, scheduling will be done via text to myself. I will strive to cater to the scheduling needs of the student and to be as flexible as possible.

Legitimate cancellations may be issued by the instructor and/or the student for the following reasons:

- Weather
- Sickness/Emergency
- Aircraft maintenance

If a student cancels for any other reason, they will not be charged for any aircraft time but they will be charged for three hours of instruction. When possible, I will always try to schedule make-up lessons when a cancellation occurs due to weather, maintenance or emergencies.

### How you are charged -

Aircraft time is charged from when the engine starts to when it shuts down. Ground instruction is charged from the moment the student and instructor begin the lesson briefing at the scheduled time of the lesson, to when the debriefing is completed. The charge for instruction begins at the scheduled lesson time, regardless if the student is late.

- Payments can be made via Venmo, or cash/check.



## Required Documentation

Every student must provide or obtain the following documentation prior to our 2nd lesson.

- Proof of Citizenship Endorsement - Copy of Passport or Birth Certificate
- [TSA Approval \(Non-Citizens\)](#)
- [Student Pilot Certificate](#) (we will fill this application out together after our 1st lesson)
- FAA Medical Certificate
  - Step 1 - [Fill out medical history](#)
  - Step 2 - [Visit an AME](#) or [Book here](#)
- Valid Government issued photo ID

## The Path to Private Pilot

Below are the minimum FAA requirements for obtaining a Private Pilot Certificate.

### Eligibility

- At least 16 years old to solo, and 17 years old to earn your certificate
- Read, write, and speak English
- Pass a third class medical
- Be a US citizen or TSA-approved alien
- Accrue at least 40 Flight Hours including
  - At least 20 hours with an instructor, including:
    - 3 hours of night flight
    - 3 hours of instrument flight
    - 3 hours of cross-country training
  - At least 10 hours of solo flight time, including
    - 5 hours of cross-country flight time
    - 3 take-offs and landings at a tower-controlled field



## Tests and Endorsements

- Receive the required endorsements from your instructor in your logbook
- Take a pre-solo test administered by your CFI

- Take the computer-based FAA knowledge test at an [authorized test center](#)
- Take the Private Pilot practical test with a Designated Pilot Examiner from the FAA, which includes an oral portion and a flight portion based on the [ACS Airman Certifications Standards](#)

To simplify the process, I recommend this course; (this will be your ground school training platform).

1. [Gold Seal \(\\$229\)](#)- Videos and quizzes, with a CFI portal which allows me to track your progress. When registering input my email so we can link our accounts together ([cole@finalapproachaviation.net](mailto:cole@finalapproachaviation.net)).
2. I would recommend purchasing these books as a means of study and reference.
  - a. [2023 FAR/AIM](#)
  - b. [Pilot's handbook of aeronautical knowledge and The Airplane Flying Handbook.](#)
  - c. [Private Pilot Oral Exam Guide](#)

## **Helpful Supplies**

### Flight Bag

- Attached is my recommendation for hauling around all your aviation equipment. [ASA Flight Briefcase](#)

### Headset

I've personally owned and flown hundreds of hours with both.

- Serviceable Budget Option - [Rugged Air](#)
- The Best in Every Respect - [Bose A20s](#)

### Kneeboard

- I use this everyday to organize notes while flying. [ASA Aluminum Kneeboard](#)

EFB - Electronic Flight Bag AKA iPad or Tablet (iPad Air is the best, but many options for Android are available)

- Many of our tools are app-based
  - [Foreflight](#) (accessible with Apple products only)
- Planning
- Weather
- Charts/Plates
- Briefings
- Logbook

An iPad or tablet is NOT required prior to beginning flight lessons.

## Other Helpful Items

- [VFR sectional charts - San Antonio](#)
  - [Legal Pads](#)

## The Typical Flight & How to Prepare

The typical flight lesson is 3 hours long, with about 1.5-2.5 hours being solely in the airplane.

Each lesson contains:

- Briefing - aims and expectations for the flight and items to be reviewed and introduced that day.
- The flight - this begins with the preflight inspection and ends with securing the aircraft.
- The debrief - review and questions regarding the flight and lesson, areas of practice, plans for the next lesson, as well as homework items that may be required.

## Come Prepared

- Rested
- Hydrated, bring water
- Light meal or snack prior to lesson is recommended
- If you are sick, don't come!
- Visualize the things you know will be reviewed and practiced
- Wear non-slip shoes and dress accordingly to weather conditions
- Have fun!

If you have any questions please reach out to the team, and we look forward to flying with you!

Cole Turner, David Texada, and Chris Mueller  
FAA Certified Flight Instructors'

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