Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Certificate

Eligibility Requirements

- Be 23 years of age (or for a U.S. military pilot may apply for an airline transport pilot certificate 20 years old)
- Read, speak, write and understand the English language
- Must hold either;
  - A commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating,
  - Or, meet the military experience requirements to qualify for a commercial pilot certificate, and an instrument rating,
  - Or, a foreign airline transport pilot license with instrument privileges
- Medical Requirements:
  - Hold a 1st class medical certificate to act as pilot-in-command
  - Hold a 2nd class medical certificate to act as second-in-command
- Have logged 1500 hours of flight time
- Satisfactorily complete an airline transport pilot certification training program (ATP-CTP)
- Pass the ATP knowledge test
  
  Reference 14 CFR §61.153 for the entire list of eligibility requirements.

Aeronautical Experience

According to federal regulations, you must meet the following aeronautical flight experience requirements to earn an Airline Transport Pilot Certification.

ATP FLIGHT TIME REQUIREMENTS

- Total Flight Time -------1500
- Night time ---------------100
- PIC ---------------------250
- Cross-Country ---------500
- Instrument ---------------75
- In Class (M/E) -----------50

Note; There are certain allowances for some of these requirements that can be researched. For example, a person who has conducted at least 20 night takeoffs and landings to a full stop may substitute each additional night takeoff and landing to a full stop for 1 hour of night flight time, up to 25 total hours gained. Once these requirements are met, the candidate can complete the practical test required for the ATP certificate.

  Reference 14 CFR §61.159 for more details on flight time requirements.

What Is a Restricted ATP (R-ATP) Certificate?

Pilots pursuing the ATP certificate must be at least 23 years of age, although provisions exist that allow a pilot to receive a Restricted ATP (R-ATP) at just 21 years of age. This restricted ATP...
has certain requirements, however, regarding experience gained either through college education or through the military.

What Can I Do With a Restricted ATP?
A restricted ATP certificate does allow a pilot to act as a co-pilot, however you cannot act as pilot-in-command (PIC) until you log the required 1500 hours and get the full (unrestricted) ATP Certification.

R-ATP Requirements (Military Experience):
- Be 21 years of age
- Must be either;
  - A honorably discharged military pilot
  - Or, provide a record showing the pilot is still currently serving in the military
  - Or, a foreign airline transport pilot license with instrument privileges
- Received a rating qualifying them as a military pilot
- Have logged 750 hours of flight time

R-ATP Requirements (College Experience):
- Be 21 years of age
- Hold a bachelor’s degree with an aviation major from specific university programs
  - Have logged 1000 hours of flight time
  - Completed 60 semester credit hours of aviation and aviation-related coursework
- Hold an associate's degree with an aviation major from specific university programs
  - Have logged 1250 hours of flight time
  - Completed at least 30 semester credit hours of aviation and aviation-related coursework

Reference 14 CFR §61.160 for more details on R-ATP requirements.