

# Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Certificate

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.