



Welcome to the Shannon School of Aeronautics

“Where Dreams Take Flight!”

Welcome to the beginning of your flight training journey! We're excited that you're considering pursuing your Private Pilot License with us. Whether you're just getting started or thinking long-term about a professional pilot career, our goal is to provide you with a supportive, structured, and encouraging environment to help you succeed.

Learning to fly is an incredibly rewarding adventure, but it can also feel like a major undertaking at times. You will experience both challenges and “aha moments” throughout your training. This is completely normal. Every student progresses at their own pace, and it's important to trust the process, stay consistent, and allow yourself to grow. With dedication and regular flying, you will begin to see your hard work pay off.

Getting Started: The Private Pilot Process

To receive your Private Pilot License, you must meet several FAA requirements. First, you must be at least 17 years old to receive your certificate, though you may fly solo at age 16. You will need to obtain at least a valid Third Class Medical, secure a Student Pilot License, and pass the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test. You must also complete a minimum of 40 flight hours, including dual instruction with an instructor, solo flight time, and general proficiency-building flight experience. Although the FAA establishes 40 flight hours as the minimum, 70 flight hours is the national average to acquire the Private Pilot's License. It is very common that students require additional time to reach the necessary level of comfort, competence, and safety—this is expected and completely normal.

Your Recommended Training Order

So, how do we meet those requirements? The first step we recommend is booking an introductory Discovery Flight. This introductory flight allows you to experience what flying is really like and ensures that it aligns with your expectations. After that, the next priority is obtaining your Medical Certificate (third-class minimum) from an FAA-designated Aviation



SHANNON SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS

Medical Examiner. Once your medical is complete, you should apply for your Student Pilot License through the FAA's IACRA system. An instructor will assist you with this process. Before beginning flight lessons, we strongly encourage signing up for Cessna Flight Training King School's ground knowledge course and if possible, completing your FAA Knowledge Test. Students who get the written exam out of the way early tend to train more efficiently, gain confidence faster, and finish in fewer overall hours. Once that's complete, the most important factor becomes your training frequency. Flying consistently—ideally two to three times per week—greatly improves your retention and reduces your total training cost. Something to keep in mind is that flights are weather dependent, so it is often a good idea to schedule more than you plan to fly. This helps prevent a large gap in flight training due to weather days. After determining a schedule that works for you in coordination with your instructor, you'll be ready to begin booking lessons and progressing through your training.

Estimated Private Pilot Training Costs

Your training includes several key components: aircraft rental, flight instruction with a flight instructor, and ground instruction. Each element contributes to your preparation for the FAA checkride. You should also plan for additional expenses such as a ground course, the FAA Knowledge Test fee, and the Designated Pilot Examiner fee for your final practical test. These costs vary per person, but the national average is around \$20,000 to get your PPL.

We are excited to support you every step of the way as you begin this journey. If you have any questions—whether about the process, scheduling, requirements, or anything else—please feel free to reach out. Your success and safety in flight training is our priority!

Shannon School of Aeronautics

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SHANNON SCHOOL
OF AERONAUTICS

REQUIRED RESOURCES & EQUIPMENT

- Cessna Flight Training - King Schools Ground Course (description below)
- [Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge \(PHAK\)](#)
- [Airplane Flying Handbook \(AFM\)](#)
- [FAR/AIM in print 2025 Edition ASA](#)
- [Aviation Weather Handbook](#)
- [Aeronautical Chart User's Guide](#)
- [Private Pilot Airman Certification Standards \(ACS\)](#)
- [AC-90-66C Non-Towered Airport Flight Operations](#)
- [Traditional](#) E6-B / Electronic E6-B [ASA](#) or [Sporty's](#)
- [Plotter](#)
- VFR Sectional: [Washington](#)
- Chart Supplement: ([AFD: NE](#))
- Headset w/ dual plugs (Recommended Brands: David Clark, Bose, Lightspeed)
- [Kneeboard](#) - *Recommended
- [Logbook](#)
- [Flight Schedule Pro](#) Establish an account and receive a 5% discount on all training!

Many of the resources listed above can be downloaded in PDF format free of charge from the FAA by following the links provided. They may also be purchased in hard copy from a variety of vendors including Pilot Mall, and Sporty's. Digital or hardcopy is acceptable; the choice is a matter of personal preference. Please be sure that the most recent versions of the aforementioned resources have been acquired. The most recent versions may be found on the FAA website. Other resources will need to be purchased, and links have been provided to vendors with the required items. The items linked above for purchase are for reference only. Supplies may be acquired through the student's preferred vendor. Any item that needs be purchased should be

discussed with the instructor in advance so as to acquire the item most suited to the individual student. Additional resources may be referenced during training, in which case the instructor will provide guidance on how to obtain access.

In addition to the resources listed above it is **highly recommended** to have an iPad with cellular and wi-fi service paired with a subscription to [ForeFlight](#). If choosing to use ForeFlight please read the [ForeFlight Buying Guide](#) prior to purchasing the device and the [plan comparison page](#) prior to purchasing the subscription.

Cessna Flight Training King Schools

Your ground school learning curriculum will be the Cessna Flight Training King Schools Private Pilot Course. The purpose of this course is to build required and fundamental knowledge to serve as a foundation for your ground training. This online platform consists of over 40 hours of videos, slides, and quizzes that allow you to learn at your own pace at any time. Upon purchasing the learning platform through our flight school at our special discount, you will receive an enrollment key via email that will allow you to access the platform. Not only will this platform serve as your ground school learning course, but your flights will also be entered into its flight tracking system and you will be able to review all previous flights in addition to previewing upcoming flights and lessons.



SHANNON SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS

HELPFUL LINKS

- Non-US citizen? Obtain TSA approval.
 - <https://www.flightschoolcandidates.gov>
- Schedule your flights on Flight Schedule Pro
 - <https://www.flightschedulepro.com>
 - Schedule your flights – make sure to select instructor & aircraft
 - Set up and view your account balance and other information
- Apply for your Student Pilot Certificate.
 - <https://iacra.faa.gov/>
 - Create an account
 - Apply for your Student Pilot Certificate (your instructor will walk you through this)
- Schedule your FAA Medical Exam. We recommend scheduling this early on, as a medical certificate is required to fly solo
 - <https://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator>
 - Perform a location search for Virginia
 - <https://medxpress.faa.gov/MedXpress/>
 - Create an account
 - Submit your application
- Apply for Financing (ask our staff for details)
 - [Flight School Loans | Flexible Flight Training Finance](#)
 - Customize your financing to fit your training needs
- Shannon School of Aeronautics website login
 - <https://shannonschoolofaeronautics.com/>
 - Username: info@shannonezf.com
 - Password: aviators

- Complete the FAA Safety Team DC SFRA training.
 - <https://www.faa.safety.gov/>
 - Create an account
 - Search for the DC SFRA Course
 - Complete the training, print out your certificate and bring it to the flight school
- Renters Insurance
 - www.shannonschoolofaeronautics.com
 - Find the AVEMCO link at the bottom of the page
 - Flight School Preferred Partner code is JA11
 - Get a quote online or call
- Renters Agreement
 - [Renters Agreement](#)
 - Printout, sign, and submit to your instructor or school staff
- Schedule your FAA Airman Knowledge Test.
 - <https://faa.psiexams.com/faa/login>
 - Create an account
 - Search for a testing center near you
 - Schedule and pay for your exam
- Procedures Guide
 - The Shannon School of Aeronautics has carefully developed its Procedures Guide in coordination with pilots and instructors who have a great depth of experience, knowledge, and training backgrounds ranging from the airlines, military, government, and academia. Our procedures ensure a safe, concise, and comprehensive understanding of flight controls, energy management, and aeronautical decision making.
 - [SSA Procedures Guide](#)
- Communications Training Script
 - [Comms Script](#)
- Basic PPL Study Guide
 - Your study material will vary from FAA publications, Cessna Flight Training King Schools, to other various documents and materials. The link below is a basic PPL study guide that covers much of the subject matter that you will be responsible to know. This is a good supplement in addition to add to your study materials.
 - [PPL Study Guide](#)



STUDENT/CUSTOMER CODE OF CONDUCT

After each flight, please take a few minutes to ensure the aircraft is in good condition for the next customer:

- **Fuel Aircraft** (Mandatory if Tanks Are Less Than ½ Full)
- **Clean Windshield and Leading Edges of Wings** with Prist and Wipes *Note: Windshields should be wiped in vertical (up and down) motions. Horizontal and circular wiping motions cause glares*
- **Replenish Oil** (As Needed - Refer to Aircraft Checklist for Desired Quantity)
- **Insert Windshield Cover** (Mandatory During Warmer Months)
- **Ensure the Following Items are Locked and/or Secured**
 - Yoke Lock
 - Throttle Lock
 - Engine Cowling Plugs
 - Pitot Tube Cover
 - Tied Down Properly
 - Aircraft is Locked
- **Wipe Down and Return Headset if Borrowed. *Note: DO NOT PLACE YOUR HEADSET ON THE DASHBOARD AS THIS WILL SCRATCH THE WINDSHIELD***
- **Remove All Trash and Personal Items**
- **Return Keys and Check-In at Front Desk**

There will be a \$25.00 charge to the student/customer if the above items are not completed after each flight.

Unnecessary Over Braking Causing Flat Spotted Tires Will Be Charged to the Student/Customer at \$395.00

Please Leave the Aircraft How You Would Like to Find It!

Student/Customer Signature: _____ Date: _____