



CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUMENT INSTRUCTOR (CFII)

You are cleared for takeoff on a new career!

Here's your "instruments in one hand, chalkboard in the other" roadmap to earning your FAA Part 61 Certified Flight Instructor–Instrument (CFII) rating—so you can teach others to fly blind...with style.

1. Meet the Prereqs

- **Age & Language:** You must be **18 years old** and able to **read, speak, write, and understand English**—so you can explain “why we bank” and “when that NAV needle hates us.”
- **Certificates & Ratings:**
 - Hold a **Flight Instructor Certificate** (with the category/class you'll teach in).
 - Hold a **Commercial Pilot** or **ATP Certificate with an Instrument Rating** on your pilot certificate. (law.cornell.edu)
- **Medical Currency:** Maintain at least a **Third-Class Medical** (or higher) so you can sign off your own flying—and your students'.

2. Instrument-Instructor Knowledge Test (FII)

- **What & When:** You'll take the **Flight Instructor–Instrument (FII)** knowledge exam.
- **Format:** **60 scored questions** (plus any unscored “validation” items), **2½ hours** allotted.
- **Passing Score:** **70%** minimum—brush up on IFR regs, instrument nav, approach procedures, and teaching techniques before you go.

3. Ground & Flight Training

- **Aeronautical Knowledge (Ground):** Logground instruction on the **instrument-rating knowledge areas** (61.185(a)(3)), including advanced weather, IFR regulations, navigation systems (VOR, GPS, DME), and ATC communications—exactly what you'll teach your students.
- **Flight Proficiency (Airborne):** Log dual instruction and demonstrate proficiency in the **basic instrument maneuvers** you'll teach—holds, intercepts, precision and non-precision approaches, unusual-attitude recoveries, and more as listed in 61.187(b)(1)(xii).
- **Endorsements:**
 - **Knowledge-Test Endorsement:** From your CFII mentor for the FII exam.
 - **Pre-Practical Endorsement:** Logbook sign-off that you're proficient in the applicable instrument areas of operation.

4. The Checkride (Practical Test)

- **Oral Portion:**



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- You'll **teach** the examiner IFR lesson plans—approach briefings, risk-management decision points, instrument-flight planning, CERP vs. METARs, and “what-if” emergencies (vacuum failures in IMC, anyone?).
- **Flight Portion:**
 - **Instructor Demo:** Give a mini-lesson in actual or simulated IMC: intercepting radials, flying holds, flying approaches, recovering from unusual attitudes—all while coaching “your student” (the examiner).
 - **Student Drill:** Then switch roles: the examiner will “be the student” and you'll correct their errors safely and smoothly.

Pro Tips for Smooth Teaching

- **Hood Time Is Gold:** Simulated-instrument practice under the hood (or in a qualified simulator) builds confidence and saves cash.
- **Study the ACS:** The FAA's CFII Practical Test Standards outline exactly what you need to demonstrate—no surprises!
- **Mentor Up:** Fly with an experienced CFII before your ride to see best (and worst) teaching practices in action.
- **Keep It Current:** To maintain CFII privileges, conduct instrument instruction regularly and stay sharp with recurrent training and safety seminars.

Once you nail that checkride, you'll be certified to turn IFR-nervous pilots into cloud-conquering instrument masters. Clear skies—and clear instruments—ahead!