



COMMERCIAL PILOTS LICENSE

You are cleared for takeoff on a new career!

Here's your "get paid to fly" roadmap under FAA Part 61—think of it as your ticket from joyride to job-ready!

1. Meet the Prereqs

- **Age & Language:** You must be **18 years old** and able to **read, speak, write, and understand English**—so brush up on your aviation lingo.
- **Private Pilot Certificate:** You already have your PPL (or you wouldn't be here!).
- **Medical Certificate:** Hold at least a **Second-Class Medical**—your official "you're fit to earn your wings (for pay)" stamp.

2. Ground School & Written Exam

- **Study Topics:** Advanced aerodynamics, commercial-operations regulations, weather systems, high-performance aircraft, weight & balance, and flight planning.
- **FAA Knowledge Test:** 100 multiple-choice questions—you need **70%** to pass. It's less "pop quiz" and more "professional guardrails," so hit the books or enroll in a focused commercial ground course.

3. Flight Training Minimums

Under Part 61.129, you'll log at least **250 hours** total flight time, broken down as follows:

- **100 hours in powered aircraft** (minimum **50 hours in airplanes**)
- **100 hours Pilot-in-Command** (of which **50 hours** must be in airplanes and **50 hours cross-country**, including at least **10 hours cross-country in airplanes**)
- **20 hours of commercial-maneuver training**, covering everything from power-off stalls to chandelles, lazy eights, eights-on-pylons, and emergency recoveries. This block **must include**:
 - **10 hours instrument training** (with view-limiting device; at least 5 hours in a single-engine airplane)
 - **10 hours in a complex, turbine-powered, or Technically Advanced Airplane (TAA)**—give those retractable gears and GPS autopilots some love. Our fleet is all TAA aircraft!
- **10 hours of solo or PIC-with-instructor flight** in a single-engine airplane, including:



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- **One 300 NM cross-country solo** with landings at three different airports (one leg \geq 250 NM)
- **5 hours night VFR**, including **10 takeoffs and landings** at a towered field ([ecfr.gov](https://www.ecfr.gov))

4. Logbook Endorsements

Your CFI will sign off each milestone—knowledge test, commercial-maneuvers proficiency, cross-country, night work, and preparation flights—so your logbook becomes the treasure map to your checkride.

5. The Checkride (Practical Test)

- **Oral Exam:** Deep-dive on commercial regs, performance charts, risk management, weight & balance, and “what-if” failures (engine, electrical, and beyond).
- **Flight Exam:** Execute precision and non-precision approaches, commercial-maneuver sequences, emergency recoveries, stalls, slow flight, and a show-stopping cross-country demonstration—all to FAA standards.

6. Pro Tips for a Smooth Flight Path

- **Budget a Few Extra Hours:** Most pilots finish between **270–300 hours**; weather and extra practice add up.
- **Embrace the TAA:** Modern cockpits streamline training and mirror real-world flying careers.
- **Scenario Practice:** Toss in a simulated engine failure or lost-comm drill to keep your wits—and your examiner—impressed.
- **Stay Organized:** A bulletproof flight plan with alternates, fuel reserves, and equipment checks is your best co-pilot.

Once you ace that checkride, congratulations—you’re on your way to doing everything from banner towing to corporate hops. Clear skies and profitable flights ahead!