



PRIVATE PILOT (PPL)

You are cleared for takeoff on a new career!

Here's a roadmap to earning your FAA Part 61 Private Pilot License (PPL). Think of it as your “flight to freedom” checklist—minus the jetpack (for now).

1. Meet the Basics

- **Age & Language:** You must be **17 years old** (16 for gliders/balloons), and able to **read, speak, write, and understand English**.
- **Medical Certificate:** Obtain at least a **Third-Class Medical** from an FAA-authorized Aviation Medical Examiner (Family Medical Center in Nassau). Think of it as your pilot “all-systems-go” health check.
- **TSA FTSP Clearance:** You will need to complete this process (it can be 8 weeks) before you can start in-aircraft training. Apply online, and you will have to interview and provide Biometrics (currently requires being inside the USA)
- **Police Clearance Letter of US Visa:** To go to the US for the Written Test, and possibly the Checkride.

2. Ground School & Knowledge Test

- **Study Up:** We use Sporty's Online ground school and Test Prep training. It keeps track of your progress and lets the instructor know what you are having issues with, or what information you have mastered. Ground Instructors are also available to tutor you as needed. You'll cover aerodynamics, weather, regulations, navigation, and more.
- **Written Exam:** Pass the **FAA Private Pilot Airman Knowledge Test** (60 questions, 70% to pass). It's multiple-choice—no trick questions about quantum physics (phew!).

3. Flight Training Requirements

Under Part 61, you need at least **40 hours** of flight time (we program 50 total hours), including:

- **Dual Instruction (at least 20 hrs):** One-on-one with your instructor, covering basic maneuvers, emergency procedures, and cross-country planning.



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- **Solo Flight (at least 10 hrs):** Time in the captain's seat alone—just you, the airplane, and the horizon.
- **Cross-Country (3 hrs dual + 5 hrs solo):**
 - **Dual XC:** Three hours flying to unfamiliar airports with your instructor.
 - **Solo XC:** One solo flight of at least **150 nautical miles**, with two or more landings at different airports.
- **Night Training:** Three hours of night flight (including one cross-country) and **10 takeoffs & landings** (to a full stop) under the stars.
- **Additional Maneuvers:** Slow flight, stalls, steep turns, emergency descents—so you'll know exactly what to do if a bird wants a closer look.

4. Logbook Endorsements

Your instructor will sign off that you're ready for the **Solo Flight, Written Exam, Checkride**, and all the individual training requirements. Think of these as VIP passes in your logbook.

5. The Checkride (Practical Test)

- **Oral Exam:** Chat with an FAA examiner about flight planning, regulations, weather, and “what-if” scenarios—no surprises here if you've done your homework.
- **Flight Test:** Fly the plane, demonstrate your maneuvers, handle emergencies, and show safe decision-making. Nail this, and you're officially a Private Pilot!

Tips for Smooth Sailing

- **Budget Some Extra Hours:** Most students finish around 50–60 hours, accounting for weather delays and extra practice.
- **Stay Curious:** Ask “why?” as much as “how?”—understanding the “why” makes you a safer, more confident pilot.
- **Have Fun:** Remember, each lesson brings you one step closer to that breathtaking first solo and the freedom of piloting your own adventures.