

Flight Training

The Basics



flysolidground.com



SOLID GROUND
— AVIATION —



GETTING YOUR PRIVATE PILOT LICENSE

Starting pilot training can feel overwhelming when you don't know what to expect. Here's what you need to know about the path from curious student to licensed pilot.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Before you can earn your Private Pilot License, you'll need to meet these eligibility requirements:

- **Age:** 17 years old (16 to solo)
- **Medical:** Pass a medical examination (glasses/contacts are fine)
- **Language:** Read, write, and speak English
- **Citizenship:** U.S. citizen or meet visa requirements

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Details
Flight Time	Minimum 40 hours total (national average: 70 hours)
Instruction	Minimum flight hours with instructor: 20 (average 40) Average ground hours with instructor: 35
Solo Time	Minimum 10 hours flying by yourself
Ground School	Complete ground school (online or in-person)
Written Exam	Pass the FAA knowledge test
Practical Test	Pass your checkride (oral exam + flight test with an examiner)

TYPICAL TRAINING TIMELINE

How long will it take? That depends on how often you train:

- 1-2 lessons/week: 9-12 months (70-80 hours)
- 3-4 lessons/week: 6 months (60 hours)
- 5-6 lessons/week: 3-4 months (50-60 hours)

Pro tip: Training frequency matters more than total time. Students who train 3+ times per week learn faster and finish closer to the 40-hour minimum.

TYPICAL COSTS

Item	Cost
Aircraft Rental (70 hours @ \$170/hr)	\$11,900
Flight Instruction (40 hours @ \$60/hr)	\$2,400
Ground Instruction (35 hours @ \$60/hr)	\$2,100
Ground School	\$700
Study Materials	\$100
Pilot Supplies (headset, etc.)	\$500
iPad/Mount	\$700
Aviation Apps (1 year)	\$240
Written Test	\$150
Practical Test (Checkride)	\$800
Medical Certificate	\$120
TOTAL	= \$19,710

THE TRAINING MILESTONES

Your journey from Day 1 to checkride follows a natural progression:

Early Training (0-20 hours) You'll learn fundamental skills: how to control the aircraft, basic maneuvers, emergency procedures, and radio communication. You'll fly with an instructor who guides every flight.

Solo Phase (10-20 hours) Once your instructor is confident, you'll fly solo, just you and the plane. These solo flights build confidence and are some of the most rewarding moments of your training.

Cross-Country & Advanced (20-60 hours) You'll practice navigation, longer flights, challenging landings, emergency scenarios, and the specific skills your examiner will test.

Checkride (60+ hours) You'll take your oral exam and flight test with an FAA examiner. Pass, and you're officially a licensed pilot!

HOW SIMULATOR TRAINING FITS IN

Here's the challenge most students face: The costs add up fast because you're paying \$160-200/hour for aircraft rentals, whether you're learning something new or practicing something you already understand.

That's where simulator training comes in.

The simulator is an ideal learning environment for building foundational skills and practicing scenarios. You can:

- Pause and ask questions
- Reset and try again (no wasted flight time)
- Focus on pure skill-building without the expense
- No weather cancellations slowing down your training
- Practice emergency procedures safely

The smart approach: Start your training in the simulator to master the basics. Then begin flying the aircraft, returning to the simulator throughout your training to maintain momentum and learn new skills at a fraction of the cost.



Ready to start?

Turn the page to learn about our New Pilot Accelerator and how simulator training can save you thousands while getting you licensed faster.

THE NEW PILOT ACCELERATOR



START YOUR PILOT TRAINING IN THE SIMULATOR

The first question new pilots ask: "Do I really need to spend \$10,000+ to start learning to fly?"

The answer is: **Not necessarily.**

Our **New Pilot Accelerator** program lets you start training in our professional-grade flight simulator for a fraction of aircraft rental costs. You'll learn the fundamentals, build confidence, and develop solid flying habits *before* paying for expensive aircraft time.

WHY START IN A SIMULATOR?

- **Save thousands on your training** Learn the expensive parts in an affordable environment. A 6-hour introduction costs ~\$1,500 in an aircraft but just \$500 in our simulator.
- **Master the basics in a focused learning environment** No distractions from engine noise, wind, or G-forces. You can pause, ask questions, review procedures, and practice until each skill feels natural.
- **No wasted time** In the aircraft, you pay for taxi time, repositioning, and recovery from mistakes. In the sim, you reset instantly and keep training productively.
- **Train with realistic equipment** Our simulator replicates the training aircraft used in your area. Simply let us know which school you plan to fly with, and we'll match their aircraft for your training.
- **Eliminate weather delays** You'll never cancel a lesson because of bad weather or maintenance issues. Train on your schedule.
- **Finish your license faster** Students who start in the simulator typically finish closer to the FAA 40-hour minimum instead of the national average of 60-70 hours.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Our New Pilot Accelerator Course is 2 lessons over 4 hours, scheduled at your convenience.



Session 1: Fundamentals

- Aircraft systems & startup procedures
- Pre-takeoff checklists
- Basic aircraft control (pitch, roll, yaw)
- Takeoff procedures
- Straight and level flight



Session 2: Essential Skills

- Turns, climbs, and descents
- Slow flight and stall recovery
- Approach procedures
- Landings
- Shutdown procedures

After these 2 lessons, you'll have a solid foundation. You'll understand how aircraft respond, what procedures matter, and what to expect in your first real flight.

DOES THE SIMULATOR TIME COUNT?

YES in two important ways:

1. **Logging Hours:** FAR 61.109 allows up to 2.5 hours of our simulator training to count toward your Private Pilot certificate requirements.
2. **Reducing Total Training Time:** Accelerator graduates typically finish their entire license requirement closer to 40-50 total hours instead of the national average of 60-70 hours.

NEXT STEPS: FROM ACCELERATOR TO AIRCRAFT

Once you complete the Accelerator, you're ready to:

Option A: Start with a flight school. We connect you with trusted flight training providers in your area. We'll introduce you to instructors who understand how our simulator training prepared you, so they can pick up seamlessly.

Option B: Already have a school? Perfect. You'll start your aircraft training with a stronger foundation, and your instructor will be able to move faster.

Once you complete the New Pilot Accelerator, you'll have the option to continue with our "Private Pilot Accelerator" program—a set of 13 lessons designed to supplement your training along the way. No subscriptions, no commitments, just quality training available at your convenience.

Schedule Your New Pilot Accelerator or Learn More.

Ready to see how simulator training fits into your plan? Contact us to discuss your training goals and how we can help you get licensed faster and for less.

Solid Ground Aviation

7515 General Aviation Dr, Fort Meade,
MD 20755, United States

+1 410 705 2250

flysolidground.com

[@flysolidground](https://www.instagram.com/flysolidground)

