



**PALOMAR**  

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**A V I A T I O N**

## Commercial Pilot Requirements

To obtain a Commercial Pilot License (CPL) in the United States, as regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under 14 CFR Part 61 or Part 141, you must meet specific eligibility, training, and testing requirements. Below is a clear and concise breakdown of the requirements for a CPL with an airplane category and single-engine class rating, based on current FAA standards as of 2025.

### Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Be at least 18 years old.
- **Language:** Read, speak, write, and understand English fluently, as it's the universal language of aviation.
- **Medical Certificate:** Hold at least a second-class FAA medical certificate, issued by an FAA-authorized Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). A first-class medical is required for airline pilots or those pursuing an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate later. The medical exam assesses vision (20/20 with correction), hearing, equilibrium, and overall health.
- **Private Pilot License (PPL):** Hold a valid FAA Private Pilot License as a prerequisite.

### Flight Experience Requirements (Part 61)

Under FAA Part 61, which is more flexible for independent or freelance training, you must log at least **250 hours of total flight time** as a pilot, including:

- **100 hours** in powered aircraft, with at least **50 hours** in airplanes.
- **100 hours** of pilot-in-command (PIC) time, including at least **50 hours** in airplanes.
- **50 hours** of cross-country flight time, with at least **10 hours** in airplanes.
- **20 hours** of training, including:
  - **10 hours** of instrument training (using a view-limiting device).

- **10 hours** in a technically advanced aircraft (TAA) with electronic primary flight displays, GPS, and autopilot.
  - Cross-country and practical test preparation.
- **10 hours** of solo flight training, including:
  - A 300-nautical-mile cross-country flight with landings at three points, one leg at least 250 nautical miles.
  - **5 hours** of night flying, including 10 takeoffs and landings.
- **Note:** Under Part 141 (FAA-approved flight schools), the minimum flight time is reduced to **190 hours** due to structured curricula, but specific requirements vary by program.

### Training and Testing

- **Ground Training:** Complete ground school covering advanced aviation topics like aerodynamics, aircraft systems, weather, regulations, and navigation. Receive a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor verifying completion.
- **Knowledge Test:** Pass the FAA Commercial Pilot Knowledge Test (CAX), covering aeronautical knowledge areas. Results are valid for 24 months.
- **Practical Test (Checkride):** Pass a practical test with an FAA-designated examiner, including an oral exam and flight test. The flight test evaluates advanced maneuvers, emergency procedures, and commercial operations. Requires a logbook endorsement from your instructor.