



PALOMAR

A V I A T I O N

Private Pilot Requirements

To earn a Private Pilot License (PPL) in the United States, you must meet specific requirements set by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Below is a concise breakdown of what's needed:

1. Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Be at least 17 years old to receive the license (you can start training earlier).
- **Language:** Be able to read, speak, write, and understand English.
- **Medical Certificate:** Obtain at least a Third-Class FAA Medical Certificate from an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). This ensures you're physically and mentally fit to fly.

2. Flight Training Requirements

- **Minimum Flight Hours:** Log at least 40 hours of flight time (though most students need 60-70 hours to be proficient). This includes:
 - **20 hours** of flight training with an instructor, covering maneuvers, takeoffs, landings, and emergency procedures.
 - **10 hours** of solo flight time, including:
 - 5 hours of solo cross-country flight.
 - One solo cross-country flight of at least 150 nautical miles with landings at three points, one segment being at least 50 nautical miles.
 - 3 takeoffs and landings (to a full stop) at an airport with a control tower.
- **Ground Training:** Complete ground school or equivalent study (formal or self-study) to learn aviation theory, regulations, navigation, weather, and aircraft systems.

3. Knowledge Test

- Pass the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test (written exam) with a score of at least 70%. The test covers topics like:
 - Airspace rules

- Weather interpretation
 - Navigation
 - Aircraft systems
 - Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs)
- Study resources include FAA handbooks, online courses, or prep apps like Gleim.

4. Practical Test (Checkride)

- Pass the FAA Practical Test, which consists of:
 - **Oral Exam:** Demonstrate knowledge of flight planning, regulations, and aircraft systems to an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE).
 - **Flight Test:** Perform maneuvers, navigation, emergency procedures, and landings to show you can safely operate an aircraft.
- You must provide an aircraft for the test (typically rented from your flight school).

5. Other Requirements

- **Flight Instructor Endorsements:** Your Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) must endorse your logbook, certifying you're ready for the knowledge test and checkride.
- **Valid ID:** Have a government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver's license or passport).
- **Application:** Submit an application through the FAA's Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) system.

Additional Notes

- **Costs:** Earning a PPL typically costs \$25,000-\$40,000, depending on many factors.
- **Timeframe:** Most students take 6-12 months to complete, depending on training frequency.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, refer to FAA regulations (14 CFR Part 61) or visit www.faa.gov.