

CFI (Certified Flight Instructor) Training Requirements

§ 61.183 Eligibility requirements.

To be eligible for a flight instructor certificate or rating a person must:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language. If the applicant is unable to meet one of these requirements due to medical reasons, then the Administrator may place such operating limitations on that applicant's flight instructor certificate as are necessary;
- (c) Hold either a commercial pilot certificate or airline transport pilot certificate with:
 - (1) An aircraft category and class rating that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought; and
 - (2) An instrument rating, or privileges on that person's pilot certificate that are appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought, if applying for—
 - (i) A flight instructor certificate with an airplane category and single-engine class rating;
 - (ii) A flight instructor certificate with an airplane category and multiengine class rating;
 - (iii) A flight instructor certificate with a powered-lift rating; or
 - (iv) A flight instructor certificate with an instrument rating.
- (d) Receive a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor on the fundamentals of instructing listed in §61.185 of this part appropriate to the required knowledge test;
- (e) Pass a knowledge test on the areas listed in §61.185(a)(1) of this part, unless the applicant:
 - (1) Holds a flight instructor certificate or ground instructor certificate issued under this part;
 - (2) Holds a teacher's certificate issued by a State, county, city, or municipality that authorizes the person to teach at an educational level of the 7th grade or higher; or
 - (3) Is employed as a teacher at an accredited college or university.
- (f) Pass a knowledge test on the aeronautical knowledge areas listed in §61.185(a)(2) and (a)(3) of this part that are appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought;

- (g) Receive a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor on the areas of operation listed in §61.187(b) of this part, appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought;
- (h) Pass the required practical test that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought in an:
 - (1) Aircraft that is representative of the category and class of aircraft for the aircraft rating sought; or
 - (2) Flight simulator or approved flight training device that is representative of the category and class of aircraft for the rating sought, and used in accordance with a course at a training center certificated under part 142 of this chapter.
- (i) Accomplish the following for a flight instructor certificate with an airplane or a glider rating:
 - (1) Receive a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor indicating that the applicant is competent and possesses instructional proficiency in stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery procedures after providing the applicant with flight training in those training areas in an airplane or glider, as appropriate, that is certificated for spins; and
 - (2) Demonstrate instructional proficiency in stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery procedures. However, upon presentation of the endorsement specified in paragraph (i)(1) of this section an examiner may accept that endorsement as satisfactory evidence of instructional proficiency in stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery procedures for the practical test, provided that the practical test is not a retest as a result of the applicant failing the previous test for deficiencies in the knowledge or skill of stall awareness, spin entry, spins, or spin recovery instructional procedures. If the retest is a result of deficiencies in the ability of an applicant to demonstrate knowledge or skill of stall awareness, spin entry, spins, or spin recovery instructional procedures, the examiner must test the person on stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery instructional procedures in an airplane or glider, as appropriate, that is certificated for spins;
- (j) Log at least 15 hours as pilot in command in the category and class of aircraft that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought; and
- (k) Comply with the appropriate sections of this part that apply to the flight instructor rating sought.

[Doc. No. 25910, 62 FR 16298, Apr. 4, 1997; Amdt. 61-103, 62 FR 40907, July 30, 1997; Amdt. 61-124, 74 FR 42561, Aug. 21, 2009]

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Practical Test Standards are based on the following references:

14 CFR part 1 Definitions and Abbreviations
14 CFR part 23 Airworthiness Standards: Normal, Utility, Acrobatic, and Commuter Category Airplanes
14 CFR part 39 Airworthiness Directives
14 CFR part 43 Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance, Rebuilding, and Alteration
14 CFR part 61 Certification: Pilots and Flight Instructors
14 CFR part 67 Medical Standards and Certification
14 CFR part 91 General Operating and Flight Rules
NTSB part 830 Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents and Incidents
AC 00-6 Aviation Weather
AC 00-45 Aviation Weather Services
AC 60-22 Aeronautical Decision Making
AC 60-28 English Language Skill Standards as Required by 14 CFR Parts 61, 63, and 65
AC 61-65 Certification: Pilots and Flight Instructors
FAA-S-8081-6C 4
AC 61-67 Stall and Spin Awareness Training
AC 61-84 Role of Preflight Preparation
AC 61-94 Pilot Transition Course for Self-Launching or Powered Sailplanes (Motorgliders)
AC 61-107 Operations of Aircraft at Altitude Above 25,000 feet MSL and/or Mach Numbers (M_{mo}) Greater than .75
AC 90-42 Traffic Advisory Practices at Airport Without Operating Control Towers
AC 90-48 Pilots' Role in Collision Avoidance
AC 90-66 Recommended Standard Traffic Patterns for Aeronautical Operations at Airports Without Operating Control Towers
AC 91-13 Cold Weather Operation of Aircraft
AC 91-55 Reduction of Electrical System Failures Following Aircraft Engine Starting
FAA-H-8083-1 Aircraft Weight and Balance Handbook
FAA-H-8083-3 Airplane Flying Handbook
FAA-H-8083-9 Aviation Instructor's Handbook
FAA-S-8081-4 Instrument Rating Practical Test Standards
FAA-S-8081-12 Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards
FAA-S-8081-14 Private Pilot Practical Test Standards
FAA-H-8083-15 Instrument Flying Handbook
FAA-H-8083-23 Seaplane, Skiplane, and Float/Ski Equipped Helicopter Operations Handbook
FAA-H-8083-25 Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
Order 8080.6 Conduct of Airman Knowledge Tests
AC 150/5340-1 Standards for Airport Markings
AC 150/5340-18 Standards for Airport Sign Systems
AC 150/5340-30 Design and Installation Details for Airport Visual Aids
AIM Aeronautical Information Manual
A/FD Airport/Facility Directory
NOTAMs Notices to Airmen
POH/AFM Pilot Operating Handbooks and FAA-Approved Airplane Flight Manuals
USCG Navigation Rule: International—Inland

Special Emphasis is put on the following areas:

1. positive aircraft control;
2. positive exchange of the flight controls procedure;
3. stall/spin awareness;
4. collision avoidance;
5. wake turbulence avoidance;
6. LAHSO;
7. runway incursion avoidance;
8. CFIT;
9. ADM and risk management;
10. wire strike avoidance;
11. checklist usage;
12. temporary flight restrictions (TFRs);
13. special use airspace (SUA);
14. aviation security; and
15. other areas deemed appropriate to any phase of the practical test.
16. Single Pilot Resource Management (SRM)

*ROTORCRAFT HELICOPTER INSTRUCTORS will have additional Books that pertain to Helicopters. Please, refer to the "Flight Instructor Practical Test Standards for Rotorcraft (Helicopter, Gyroplane)." Handbook: FAA-S-8081-7B

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