

# Steps to complete Private Pilot Training

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Crosswinds Aviation can take you through the entire process of becoming a pilot. You aren't required to have any knowledge about piloting an aircraft prior to starting our program.

Most people start with their Private Pilot rating. While there are other ratings you can start with, the Private Pilot rating is the most useful. It will allow you to fly day or night with no distance limitations and clear of clouds. This is also the first rating you would receive if becoming a pilot as a career. This document will give you a detailed understanding of everything required to achieve your Private Pilot Rating.

First, here are the requirements by the FAA to Achieve your Rating:

- 40 hours minimum by FAA standards - Average in the US is 60-70 hours. We average about 55 hours for a Private Pilot Rating at Crosswinds Aviation.
- 8 hours cross country flight time – This just means landing at an airport more than 50 nautical miles away.
- 3 hours instrument or simulated instrument flight time
- 3 hours night flight time
- Minimum age is 17 to get your license. You can solo at age 16.
- You must pass at least a class III medical examination by an Aviation Medical Examiner prior to solo flight.

**Here are the steps we will take you through in order to achieve your Private Pilot rating.**

## Step One - Discovery Flight

Take a Discovery Flight! Your Discovery Flight is an actual flight lesson and will count toward your license if you choose to continue! Watch these videos to see what the Discovery Flight experience is like:

<http://youtu.be/mvz7eUIFbG0>

<http://youtu.be/KsyfxolewaA>

Here are our Discovery Flight costs:

- 2 seat Diamond DA20 - \$85 for 30 minute, \$165 for 1 hour
- 4 seat Cessna 172 - \$95 for 30 minute, \$185 for 1 hour
- 5 seat Cirrus SR20 – \$280 for 1 hour



If you are fairly confident that you would like to obtain your Private Pilot rating, we recommend a 1 hour discovery flight as it will be more like a full flight lesson.

## Step Two – Get your flight training supplies

If you enjoyed your Discovery Flight and want to continue, there are some supplies you will need to get started. We have all these items in stock at Crosswinds Aviation so we can get you started right away.

- **Your Private Pilot training syllabus** – We will print and wire-bind a syllabus with your name on it, and your name pre-populated on each lesson. [You can download our syllabus here to see how our training is structured.](#) This will guide you through the entire process. Each lesson includes a Required Pre-study section which will tell you exactly what you need to study in your Sporty's Learn to Fly self-study course in order to make sure you're well prepared for each lesson in the Syllabus. Once you have completed all Ground and Flight lessons in the syllabus, you will have logged about 55 hours of flight time and have met all the FAA requirements for the Private Pilot rating.
- **Logbook** (\$11.95) – This is your official FAA logbook where you will record all your logged flight time.
- **Sporty's Learn to Fly Private Pilot course** (\$199.99) – This is a self-study course that will give you all the required knowledge and background necessary in order to become a safe pilot. You can choose to purchase this from Crosswinds Aviation in Online, iPad, or DVD format. We recommend the Online format for most of our clients. The iPad version is great if you want to download the video lessons to your iPad for offline viewing and the DVD version is good if you don't have a fast enough internet connection to support online video streaming.
- **FAR/AIM Book** (\$9.98) – This is a book containing the Federal Aviation Regulations and Aeronautical Information Manual. You will use this book to understand the regulations for a Private Pilot in detail and will be required as a reference throughout your training.
- **Airplane Flying Handbook/Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge Combo** (\$37.95) - The FAA's Airplane Flying Handbook (previously called Flight Training Handbook) has been required reading for all pilots for more than 30 years! This book introduces the basic pilot skills and knowledge essential for piloting airplanes. It benefits student pilots just beginning their aviation endeavors, as well as those pilots wishing to improve their flying proficiency and aeronautical knowledge, pilots preparing for additional certificates or ratings, and flight instructors engaged in the instruction of both students and licensed pilots.
- **Michigan Aeronautical Chart** (\$8.00) – This is the Michigan VFR (Visual Flight Rules) chart showing local topography and elevation for Michigan public use airports. You will use the Michigan VFR chart throughout your training.

## Step Three – Registration

In order for us to meet TSA, MDOT Aeronautics and FAA requirements we need the following items on-file for each student:

1. Proof of Citizenship of the United States of America:
  - a. Valid, unexpired U.S. passport & driver's license;
  - b. Certified U.S. birth certificate AND U.S. government-issued photo ID; or
  - c. U.S naturalization certificate with raised seal AND government-issued photo ID

### **TSA and Alien Flight Candidate Information**

For students that are interested in training with us and they cannot comply with any of the above, they will need to apply and go through the TSA Alien flight student program. Please utilize the

website: [www.flightschoolcandidates.gov](http://www.flightschoolcandidates.gov) and follow the step by step process. Students are able to take a discovery flight and have ground instruction with us until they are approved through the Alien Flight Candidate program to continue flying with us. There are two parts to a training request, the Candidate's identifying information and the details of the training request. Both must be completed to successfully submit a Category 3 training request. Students must create their own AFSP accounts, through which they submit a Category 3 training request. The pages for the personal information are found under the "Part: 1 -- Candidate Information" folder after login. Please note that the name on the application must match the name found in the account information. The pages for the training request details are found under the "Part: 2 -- Request for Training" folder after login. These pages are only for candidates submitting Category 3 training requests. Once you are on the site [www.flightschoolcandidates.gov](http://www.flightschoolcandidates.gov) you can follow the steps. Some of the information you may need to process your request are below:

Create a UserID and password

- Our training facility: Midwest Air LLC, dba Crosswinds Aviation
- Choose Category 3: Single Engine Land (SEL) rating
- Training requests are for 1 year maximum & the processing fee is \$130

Please contact our office if you have any additional questions at 517-552-1101.

2. Please download and fill out this contact information sheet:  
[www.flywithcrosswinds.com/StudentInfoSheet](http://www.flywithcrosswinds.com/StudentInfoSheet)
3. Pilot Guide : [www.flywithcrosswinds.com/pilotguide](http://www.flywithcrosswinds.com/pilotguide)
  - a. Please download and read this. This document contains information on our insurance, guidelines and our processes and procedures. Once you have read this completely, please sign and return this form:  
[www.flywithcrosswinds.com/flightschoolagreement](http://www.flywithcrosswinds.com/flightschoolagreement)
4. Rental Insurance:
  - a. Crosswinds Aviation recommends that all students look into getting rental insurance. Here are 3 insurance company options for this:
    - i. <http://insurance.aopa.org/Aviation/renters-insurance>
    - ii. [http://www.eaa.org/~media/files/eaamembership/benefits/insurance/non\\_owner\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.eaa.org/~media/files/eaamembership/benefits/insurance/non_owner_brochure.pdf)
    - iii. <https://www.avemco.com/secure/aircraft-renters-insurance.aspx>
5. FAA Medical
  - a. All students flying with Crosswinds Aviation must have a current Medical Certificate and Student Pilot certificate issued by a Certified FAA Medical Examiner. This is mandatory before soloing the aircraft however it is advised to receive a medical prior to this especially if you have any medical or other concerns. We recommend a 3rd class medical & student pilot certificate. If you plan on moving on towards becoming a professional/commercial Pilot, then we recommend that you receive a 1st Class Medical and Student Pilot Certificate.  
Please refer to the FAA site for more information:
    - i. <http://www.faa.gov/pilots/>
    - ii. <http://www.faa.gov/pilots/amelocator/>
    - iii. [http://www.faa.gov/licenses\\_certificates/medical\\_certification/specialissuance/](http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/specialissuance/)

## Step Four – Start Scheduling flights

We use an Online Scheduling System at Crosswinds Aviation. You will login to the scheduling system and schedule your flight lessons at your convenience. How often you fly will determine how quickly you get your license. If you can commit all day for 3 weeks straight, you can achieve your license in as little as 3 weeks. Most of our clients will schedule to fly about 2 times per week with some study time in between flights. This will get you completed in about 4-6 months.

In order to start scheduling flights with us, sign up on our online scheduling system here:  
<https://login.flightschedulepro.com/SelfService/UserSignupStep2.aspx?code=43937&id=43937>

Once you go through the signup process, we will approve your scheduling system ID and you can start scheduling your flights. You will want to schedule a 2 hour block of time in the aircraft of your choice with your instructor.

Of course we are always available by phone to schedule your flights. If you are not at a computer or prefer to schedule by phone, you can always call us at 517-552-1101 to schedule your flights.

## Step Five – Solo!

After training with us and obtaining approximately 15-25 you will likely be ready to solo the aircraft by yourself without your instructor. This is Lesson 32 of the 59 lessons in your flight training syllabus. You will need to make sure that you have obtained your FAA Medical by a Certified FAA medical examiner in order to solo. The minimum age for solo flight is 16.

## Step Six – Cross Country Flying and check-ride preparation

After solo flight, you will continue following the remaining lessons in your flight training syllabus with your instructor for cross country flying & meeting the remaining requirements. Once you have completed all the lessons you will do some final Ground and Flight lessons to prepare for your written exam and check-ride.

There are some additional supplies at this part of the training that you will need for cross-country flight planning and test prep materials

- [ASA Composite E6B Computer](#) (\$12.95) – This is a slide-rule type computer to calculate crosswind landing components, wind and heading calculations, time en-route, and fuel calculations.
- [Plotter](#) (\$16.95) – This is for measuring distance and heading on your Aeronautical Chart for your planned flight route.
- [GLEIM Private Pilot FAA Knowledge Test book](#) (\$19.95) - The primary purpose of the Gleim Private Pilot FAA Knowledge Test book is to provide you with the easiest, fastest, and least-expensive means of passing the FAA knowledge test.
- [Private Pilot Practical Test Standards](#) (\$5.95) – This details the type and levels of skill and knowledge that must be demonstrated before an examiner can issue a certificate or rating to an applicant, and describes background study and reference materials.
- [Private Oral Exam Guide](#) (\$12.95) - The Private Oral Exam Guide is designed for student pilots training for the Private Pilot Certificate. All the subjects a Private Pilot candidate will be tested on during check rides and review flights are covered.

## Step Seven – Take Written, Oral and Practical Exams

After completing all the Ground lessons in your syllabus and have completed final review of the material, your instructor will sign you off for the Written exam. You will need to go to a designated FAA testing center to take the written exam.

Once you have passed the written exam, completed all flight lessons in the syllabus, and successfully demonstrated all the required skills to your instructor, your instructor will sign you off for the Private Pilot check-ride with an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE). Your instructor will help you schedule your check-ride for a time that is convenient for you.

You are now a Private Pilot and can enjoy the freedom and time savings that flying an aircraft has to offer. There is truly nothing like it.

