

Course summary

Private Pilot — Airplane Single-Engine Land · 14 CFR Part 141, Appendix B.
Prerequisite: Start here. Student pilot certificate and at least a 3rd-class medical.
Planned course: 33.5 **scheduled flight/sim hours** (28 dual + 5.5 solo) across 3 stages.

Hours are planning targets. Lessons are repeated to proficiency; the course is complete only when the student meets both the ACS standards and the regulatory minimums for the certificate.

Experience & eligibility

14 CFR Part 141, Appendix B · Private Pilot — Airplane ACS (current edition)

REQUIREMENT	STANDARD
Total flight training	35 h (Part 141 App B)
Dual received	20 h
Solo	5 h
Dual cross-country	3 h
Night	3 h incl. 10 T&L + XC > 100 nm
Instrument	3 h
Test prep (within 60 days)	3 h

Stage I — Presolo

Goal: First supervised solo · 10h dual + 0.5h solo = 10.5h flight

Aircraft control, the four fundamentals, stalls, ground reference, and the traffic pattern to presolo proficiency.

F-1 · Introductory flight & four fundamentals

DUAL

Planned: 1.5h dual · ACS: PA.I / PA.IV

Elements

- Certificates & documents (ARROW); preflight inspection
- Cockpit familiarization, engine start, taxi, runup
- Normal takeoff & climb
- Straight-and-level, climbs, descents, and turns
- Collision avoidance & clearing; sterile cockpit
- Normal approach & landing (instructor assisted)

Objectives

- Complete a preflight inspection and passenger/crew briefing
- Perform the four fundamentals at introductory tolerances
- Maintain positive aircraft control and outside scan

Completion standard: Student manipulates the controls through the four fundamentals with coaching and understands control effects.

Homework: Chair-fly preflight & normal checklist flows; read POH sections 1–2; study the airport diagram.

F-2 · Slow flight & stall recognition

DUAL

Planned: 1.5h dual · ACS: PA.VII

Elements

- Maneuvering during slow flight
- Power-off and power-on stalls; recovery flow
- Secondary stall & spin awareness
- Trim use and configuration changes

Objectives

- Maintain altitude ± 100 ft, heading $\pm 10^\circ$ in slow flight
- Recognize and recover from stalls at the first indication
- Verbalize aerodynamic cues before the buffet

Completion standard: Recovers from power-on/off stalls with minimal altitude loss and correct control inputs, with coaching.

Homework: Review stall/spin awareness; rehearse the recovery script aloud.

F-3 · Ground reference maneuvers & steep turns

DUAL

Planned: 1.5h dual · ACS: PA.V / PA.VI

Elements

- Rectangular course, S-turns, turns around a point
- Wind correction & division of attention
- Steep turns (45° bank)

Objectives

- Maintain altitude ± 100 ft while correcting for wind
- Roll out of steep turns within $\pm 10^\circ$ of heading
- Divide attention inside/outside consistently

Completion standard: Applies wind correction throughout ground reference maneuvers; steep turns to standard with coaching.

Homework: Draw wind-correction diagrams for the practice area.

F-4 · Traffic pattern & normal landings**DUAL****Planned:** 1.5h dual · **ACS:** PA.IV / PA.XII**Elements**

- Normal & crosswind taxi
- Normal takeoff, climb, and traffic pattern
- Stabilized approach & normal landing
- Standard radio calls; go-around basics

Objectives

- Fly a stabilized pattern at proper airspeeds and altitudes
- Land within the touchdown zone (instructor assisted)
- Make standard radio calls without prompting

Completion standard: Consistently stabilized approaches and coached flare to landing.**Homework:** Say the pattern radio script 5×; review AIM traffic pattern entries.**F-5 · Crosswind, go-around & emergencies****DUAL****Planned:** 1.5h dual · **ACS:** PA.IV / PA.IX**Elements**

- Crosswind takeoff & landing; forward slip
- Go-around / rejected landing
- Emergency approach & landing (simulated)
- Systems & emergency checklist use

Objectives

- Maintain crosswind correction through takeoff and landing
- Make a timely go-around decision
- Establish best glide and select a suitable field

Completion standard: Flies crosswind landings with coaching and performs the engine-failure flow from memory.**Homework:** Memorize emergency items; read the POH emergency section.

F-6 · Presolo review & maneuvers to standard

DUAL

Planned: 1.5h dual · **ACS:** Presolo standards (§61.87)**Elements**

- Review of all Stage I maneuvers
- Pattern work & emergencies
- Presolo knowledge test review (§61.87)

Objectives

- Perform Stage I maneuvers at presolo standard, largely unassisted
- Demonstrate sound pattern judgment and emergency handling

Completion standard: Instructor assesses near-solo proficiency across all Stage I tasks.**Homework:** Complete the presolo written test; study §61.87 knowledge areas.**F-7 · Presolo stage check & first solo**

STAGE CHECK

Planned: 1h dual + 0.5h solo · **ACS:** Presolo solo requirements**Elements**

- Presolo stage check (chief / assistant chief instructor)
- Presolo written review & endorsement
- First supervised solo — three pattern circuits

Objectives

- Pass the presolo stage check
- Complete the first solo safely to a full stop

Completion standard: Solo endorsement (§61.87); three solo takeoffs and landings to a full stop.**Homework:** Log the solo; debrief; preview Stage II.**Stage II — Cross-country, night, instrument & solo****Goal:** Solo cross-country privileges · 11h dual + 5h solo = 16h flight

Navigation by pilotage/DR and radio nav, dual and solo cross-countries, night operations, and basic attitude instrument flying.

F-8 · Pilotage, dead reckoning & the VFR nav log

DUAL

Planned: 1.5h dual · ACS: PA.VI

Elements

- Completing the VFR navigation log (/nav-log)
- Pilotage, dead reckoning & the wind triangle
- Diversion and lost procedures; flight following

Objectives

- Navigate by pilotage/DR within planned checkpoint times
- Execute a diversion to an alternate and estimate ETA/heading

Completion standard: Accurate ETE/ETA and a confident diversion, with EFB/nav-log discipline.

Homework: Plan the dual cross-country route and nav log at /nav-log.

F-9 · Dual cross-country (> 50 nm)

DUAL

Planned: 3h dual · XC · ACS: PA.VI

Elements

- Weather self-brief + Leidos brief; file/open/close flight plan
- Cross-country > 50 nm from the departure point
- Fuel management, checkpoints, VOR/GPS navigation
- Airspace, flight following, and ADM

Objectives

- Conduct the cross-country within navigation tolerances
- Manage fuel and make sound diversion/ADM decisions
- Open and close the flight plan with Flight Service

Completion standard: Meets the §61.109 dual cross-country element with sound risk management.

Homework: Postflight cross-country debrief; refine planning technique.

F-10 · Night operations**DUAL****Planned:** 3h dual · night · ACS: PA.IV / PA.VI (night)**Elements**

- Night preflight, lighting & equipment
- 10 night takeoffs and landings to a full stop
- Night cross-country (> 100 nm total distance)
- Night illusions, emergencies & systems

Objectives

- Complete 10 night takeoffs and landings to a full stop
- Complete a night cross-country over 100 nm total
- Recognize and mitigate night visual illusions

Completion standard: Meets the §61.109 night training requirements.**Homework:** Read night operations & illusions; review lighting systems.**F-11 · Basic attitude instrument flying (I)****DUAL****Planned:** 1.5h dual · instrument · ACS: PA.I / PA.VIII (instrument)**Elements**

- Attitude instrument flying (full & partial panel)
- Straight-and-level, turns, climbs, descents by reference to instruments
- Unusual attitude recognition & recovery
- Radio navigation & ATC communication under the hood

Objectives

- Control the airplane solely by reference to instruments
- Recover from unusual attitudes promptly and correctly

Completion standard: Completes the first portion of the 3-hour instrument requirement.**Homework:** Practice the instrument scan; program the GTN/G1000 on the sim.

F-12 · Solo practice & solo cross-country**SOLO****Planned:** 0.5h dual + 5h solo · solo XC · ACS: Solo cross-country requirements**Elements**

- Solo maneuver practice in the local area
- Solo cross-country ≥ 150 nm total, 3 points, one leg ≥ 50 nm
- Self-brief, flight plan, and solo endorsements

Objectives

- Complete the required solo cross-country
- Build solo proficiency and decision-making

Completion standard: Meets the §61.109 solo cross-country requirement; solo endorsements current.**Homework:** Plan the solo cross-country; debrief with the CFI afterward.**F-13 · Stage II check****STAGE CHECK****Planned:** 1.5h dual · ACS: Stage II standards**Elements**

- Navigation & cross-country planning review
- Diversion, lost procedures, instrument intro
- Emergencies review

Objectives

- Pass the Stage II stage check to advance to certification prep

Completion standard: Satisfactory Stage II stage check.**Homework:** Begin FAA knowledge (written) test preparation.

Stage III — Certification preparation

Goal: End-of-course test → FAA practical test · 7h dual = 7h flight

Polish every ACS Area of Operation to the Private Pilot standard, complete remaining experience, and pass the end-of-course test.

F-14 · ACS maneuvers to standard + instrument (II)

DUAL

Planned: 2h dual · instrument · ACS: All Areas of Operation

Elements

- All PPL maneuvers to ACS tolerances
- Short-field & soft-field takeoffs and landings
- Steep turns, slow flight, stalls, emergencies
- Remaining instrument time (completes the 3-hour requirement)

Objectives

- Perform all ACS maneuvers to Private Pilot standard
- Complete the 3-hour instrument training requirement

Completion standard: Maneuvers consistently within ACS tolerances.

Homework: Self-evaluate against the ACS; list weak areas to target.

F-15 · Checkride profile & mock practical

DUAL

Planned: 2h dual · **ACS:** All Areas of Operation**Elements**

- Mock oral (systems, regs, weather, ADM)
- Full checkride flight profile end-to-end
- Cross-country planning review; complete any outstanding experience

Objectives

- Fly the full checkride profile to ACS standard
- Demonstrate checkride-level knowledge in the mock oral

Completion standard: Instructor is confident the student is checkride-ready.**Homework:** Work the mock-oral question bank; assemble document package.**F-16 · End-of-course test & test prep**

STAGE CHECK

Planned: 3h dual · test prep · **ACS:** End-of-course standards**Elements**

- End-of-course practical test (chief / assistant chief instructor)
- Test preparation within 60 days of the end-of-course test
- Endorsements (§61.39 / 61.107 / 61.109); IACRA 8710 paperwork

Objectives

- Pass the end-of-course practical test
- Receive the endorsement for the FAA practical test

Completion standard: Graduation certificate issued; student endorsed for the FAA practical test.**Homework:** Schedule the DPE; complete a final document check.

Template lesson plans for Part 141-style courses (and Part 61 add-ons/ATP). FAA-approved course status requires FSDO approval and an air agency (pilot school) certificate. ATP requires the §61.156 ATP-CTP and the applicable aeronautical experience. Endorsements and dispatch decisions remain the instructor's responsibility.