

Pilot Training Cost Estimate

Part 61

(Effective November 11, 2025)

PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE - ASEL:

FAA minimum requirement is 40 hours, including 20 dual and 10 solo. Individual training times vary greatly, depending upon a number of factors, and the FAA website says most people require 60 to 75 hours of training. These figures are for 50 hours, including 35 dual and 15 solo.

	Hours	Rate/Hr	
Course fee			\$200
Cessna 172	50	\$140	\$7,000
Flight instructor fees	35	\$45	\$1,575
Ground instruction	35	\$45	\$1,575
Study materials (typical)			\$150
PRIVATE COURSE COST (ESTIMATE)			\$10,500

INSTRUMENT - AIRPLANE RATING *(Assumes a pilot meets ACS standards in all Private Pilot tasks/maneuvers) :*

FAA requires a minimum of 50 hours cross-country as Pilot in Command, and 40 hours of instrument time, including 15 hours of instrument instruction. These figures are for maximum allowable time in our Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD) and 65 hours in a Cessna 172, to include the cross-country Pilot in Command and instrument time requirements. Students with cross-country PIC time over 5 hours will require that much less C-172 time (up to 30 hours).

Course fee			\$200
Cessna 172	65	\$140	\$9,100
AATD	23	\$35	\$805
Flight instructor fees	40	\$45	\$1,800
Ground instruction	30	\$45	\$1,350
Study materials (typical)			\$150
INSTRUMENT COURSE COST (ESTIMATE)			\$13,405

COMMERCIAL PILOT CERTIFICATE - ASEL:

FAA requires at least 250 hours, and 20 hours of instruction for the commercial license, with at least 10 in a complex airplane or Technically Advanced Airplane (TAA). At this point you have 115 hours of Cessna 172 and 23 hours of AATD time, so you need at least 112 more hours. These figures are for 80 hours in the Cessna 172, 15 hours in the AATD, and 20 hours instruction in a Technically Advanced Airplane.

Course fee			\$200
Cessna 172	80	\$140	\$11,200
Cessna 177 (TAA)	20	\$150	\$3,000
AATD	15	\$35	\$525
Flight instructor fees	50	\$45	\$2,250
Ground instruction	20	\$45	\$900
Study materials (typical)			\$150
COMMERCIAL COURSE COST (ESTIMATE)			\$18,225

TOTAL MATA PROGRAM COST ESTIMATE (Private, Instrument, Commercial) **\$42,130**

Extra Personal Fees:

Each pilot certificate requires books & charts as well as the following FAA testing after completion of that course:

FAA written knowledge test	~ \$175
FAA oral and practical exam (Checkride)	~ \$650

OTHER TRAINING AVAILABLE:

TECHNICAL EVALUATION PREP COURSE:

This course is intended for pilots who are current, proficient, instrument-rated Commercial Pilots, about to undergo a technical evaluation with a mission aviation sending organization. This may be at the recommendation or request of the organization or the individual.

Course fee			\$200
Cessna U-206	10.5	\$215	\$2,258
Precision Flight Control AATD	5	\$35	\$175
Flight instructor fees	15.5	\$45	\$698
Ground instruction	20	\$45	\$900
TECH EVAL PREP COURSE COST (ESTIMATE)			\$4,231