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.

CFI (Certified Flight Instructor) Training Requirements

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<) 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-8083-23** 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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