

FAA Private Pilots Flight Training Requirements

■ For an airplane single-engine rating.

Must log at least 40 hours of flight time that includes at least 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training .

The training must include at least—

- (1) 3 hours of cross-country flight training in a single-engine airplane;
- (2) 3 hours of night flight training in a single-engine airplane that includes—
 - (i) One cross-country flight of over 100 nautical miles total distance; and
 - (ii) 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport.
- (3) 3 hours of flight training in a single-engine airplane on the control and maneuvering of an airplane solely by reference to instruments, including straight and level flight, constant airspeed climbs and descents, turns to a heading, recovery from unusual flight attitudes, radio communications, and the use of navigation systems/facilities and radar services appropriate to instrument flight;
- (4) 3 hours of flight training with an authorized instructor in a single-engine airplane in preparation for the practical test, which must have been performed within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test; and
- (5) 10 hours of solo flight time in a single-engine airplane, consisting of at least—
 - (i) 5 hours of solo cross-country time;
 - (ii) One solo cross country flight of 150 nautical miles total distance, with full-stop landings at three points, and one segment of the flight consisting of a straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles between the takeoff and landing locations; and
 - (iii) Three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport with an operating control tower.

■ For a helicopter rating.

Must log at least 40 hours of flight time that includes at least 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training.

The training must include at least—

- (1) 3 hours of cross-country flight training in a helicopter;
- (2) 3 hours of night flight training in a helicopter that includes—
 - (i) One cross-country flight of over 50 nautical miles total distance; and
 - (ii) 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport.
- (3) 3 hours of flight training with an authorized instructor in a helicopter in preparation for the practical test, which must have been performed within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test; and
- (4) 10 hours of solo flight time in a helicopter, consisting of at least—
 - (i) 3 hours cross-country time;
 - (ii) One solo cross country flight of 100 nautical miles total distance, with landings at three points, and one segment of the flight being a straight-line distance of more than 25 nautical miles between the takeoff and landing locations; and
 - (iii) Three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport with an operating control tower.

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