



PILOT RISE  
FLIGHT SCHOOL

# FLIGHT TRAINING GUIDE

**Not just certified. Ready.**

A clear guide to choosing a path, planning the investment, and beginning flight training in Dallas-Fort Worth.

DALLAS EXECUTIVE • HICKS AIRFIELD





START HERE

# The questions every new pilot should answer

Flight training is a major investment of time, money, and attention. This guide is designed to help you make a clear decision before you commit.

1

## Is flight training right for me?

Understand the commitment, responsibility, and payoff.

2

## Which path fits my goal?

Personal flying, advanced capability, or a professional career.

3

## What will training look like?

Lessons, records, stage checks, simulator work, and mentorship.

4

## What should I plan for?

Realistic time, cost, frequency, and preparation.

5

## What do I do first?

Medical questions, ground school, scheduling, and your first flight.

Founded in 2018 around one question:

*"If this were my family learning to fly,  
would this be good enough?"*



2x AOPA Distinguished Flight School



DECIDE

# Is flight training right for you?



Flying rewards discipline and sound judgment—and quickly exposes poor planning. The best time to count the cost is before you begin the journey.

## A GOOD FIT IF...

- You enjoy learning systems and practicing precise skills.
- You can train consistently and study between lessons.
- You accept direct feedback and keep improving.
- You want responsibility, not only the adventure.

## PAUSE AND PLAN FIRST IF...

- Your budget depends on finishing exactly at FAA minimums.
- Your schedule would create long gaps between lessons.
- You have unresolved medical eligibility questions.
- You cannot reserve regular time for preparation.

**You don't have to decide from a brochure. Take a Discovery Flight and experience the aircraft, the training, and the school for yourself.**

[Book a Discovery Flight](#)



DECIDE

# Choose the goal, then choose the path

The certificate is not the goal. What you want to do with it determines the right sequence, pace, aircraft, and budget.

## PERSONAL & RECREATIONAL

### Fly for the experience and freedom

- Weekend trips and local flying
- Carry family and friends
- Build a lifelong skill

Typical path: Private Pilot, then Instrument if your travel goals justify it.

## ADVANCED CAPABILITY

### Become a more capable owner or traveler

- Better weather options
- Precision, proficiency, and judgment
- More useful personal or business travel

Typical path: Private Pilot + Instrument Rating + recurrent proficiency.

## PROFESSIONAL & AIRLINE

### Train for paid flying and a career

- Commercial privileges
- Instructor training and time building
- Airline eligibility and professional standards

Typical path: Private → Instrument → Commercial → CFI/CFI-I → experience → multi/ATP.

**Every professional pilot begins with the same foundation: learning to fly safely as a private pilot.**



PATH

# Your training path at a glance

Personal pilots can pause at the level that serves their goals. Career pilots continue through instructor training and paid experience.

1

## DISCOVERY FLIGHT

Try flying, meet an instructor, compare the school.

2

## PRIVATE PILOT

Fly as pilot in command and carry passengers.

3

## INSTRUMENT RATING

Build precision, weather judgment, and IFR capability.

COMMON STOP FOR PERSONAL TRAVEL

4

## COMMERCIAL PILOT

Earn the certificate required for many paid flying roles.

5

## CFI + CFI-I

Learn to teach and build paid flight experience.

6

## TIME BUILDING

Develop judgment, consistency, and experience toward hiring minimums.

7

## MULTI-ENGINE + ATP

Usually completed later, closer to airline eligibility.



*"I wouldn't be an airline pilot without this flight school."*

Karl completed Private, Instrument, and Commercial training at Pilot Rise before moving into professional flying.

[View current training programs](#)



THE STANDARD

# Not just certified. Ready.

Pilot Rise is built around four operating values. They are not slogans; they shape how lessons are planned, taught, evaluated, and priced.

## QUALITY

Real-world skills, structured standards, and stage checks beyond simply passing the test.

## MENTORSHIP

An instructor who understands your goals, adapts the plan, and explains the next step.

## SAFETY

Published limits, risk management, professional maintenance, and consistent oversight.

## VALUE

Efficient lessons, transparent pricing, free practice tools, and pay-as-you-go flexibility.

**Ready, because every lesson fits into a bigger plan.**

[See what Pilot Rise does differently](#)



TRAINING

# How training works at Pilot Rise

Structure keeps you moving toward the certificate. Flexibility keeps each lesson focused on what is safe and productive today.



## PART 61

Published syllabus with the ability to adapt.

## STAGE CHECKS

A second instructor validates major milestones.

## SMART RECORDS

Any instructor can continue without losing context.



TRAINING

# What a normal lesson looks like



The flight is only one part of the lesson. Preparation and debriefing turn time in the airplane into lasting skill.

## PREPARE

1

Assigned study, weather, and the lesson objective.

## BRIEF

2

Plan the flight, identify risks, and review standards.

## PREFLIGHT

3

Inspect the aircraft and verify documents and fuel.

## TRAIN

4

Fly, simulate, or complete focused ground work.

## DEBRIEF

5

Identify what worked, what changed, and what to practice.

## NEXT ACTION

6

Update the record, assign study, and schedule the next lesson.

A strong lesson ends with a clear answer to: “What should I do before we fly again?”



PRIVATE PILOT

# The journey from first flight to checkride

Most students move through the same four phases, but the lesson sequence adapts to progress, weather, aircraft, and individual needs.

1

## START

Discovery Flight or Lesson 1. Meet the school and build your plan.

2

## PRE-SOLO

Aircraft control, landings, radio work, emergencies, and sound habits.

3

## CROSS-COUNTRY

Planning, navigation, night operations, and unfamiliar airports.

4

## CHECKRIDE PREP

Knowledge-test completion, oral preparation, and practical-test standards.



MEDICAL BEFORE SOLO

WRITTEN BEFORE CHECKRIDE

STAGE CHECKS AT MILESTONES



## PRIVATE PILOT

# What the certificate lets you do

A Private Pilot Certificate is the foundation for personal flying and every advanced professional certificate that follows.

## YOU CAN

- Act as pilot in command when qualified and current.
- Carry passengers and use an airplane for personal travel.
- Fly for recreation, proficiency, and permitted charitable activities.
- Continue into instrument, commercial, and instructor training.

## YOU CANNOT

- Fly for compensation or hire solely on a private certificate.
- Ignore weather, airspace, aircraft, or personal limitations.
- Treat the checkride as the end of learning or proficiency.
- Assume every trip is legal or safe without current planning.

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

**17**MINIMUM AGE FOR THE  
CERTIFICATE**40h**FAA PART 61 MINIMUM FLIGHT  
TIME**45–75h**

TYPICAL COMPLETION RANGE

**2 exams**KNOWLEDGE TEST + PRACTICAL  
TEST (ORAL AND FLIGHT)

You must be able to read, speak, write, and understand English. Most private and career students should address FAA medical eligibility early and before solo. The exact medical pathway depends on the certificate and your circumstances.

*Planning summary only. Always use current FAA rules and instructor guidance.*



PLAN

# Plan the time and cost realistically

**40h**

FAA MINIMUM

**45–75h**

TYPICAL RANGE

**8 weeks**

POSSIBLE FAST-TRACK

**4–6 mo.**

COMMON CASUAL PACE

## MINIMUM-BASED PRIVATE PILOT ESTIMATES STARTING AT



**CESSNA 150**

**\$8,800**

Lowest-cost path; smaller two-seat cabin.



**CESSNA 172**

**\$9,900**

More room, payload flexibility, and avionics.

**Most students should plan 25–50% above a minimum-based starting estimate.**

Your final total changes with training frequency, preparation, aircraft choice, weather, proficiency, checkride scheduling, and experience already completed.

[View current prices](#)



PLAN

# Consistency is the biggest cost-control tool

Skills fade between lessons. More frequent training usually improves retention, reduces relearning, and lowers the total hours needed to reach proficiency.

## 1 LESSON / WEEK



### Slowest

Longer gaps, more review, and weather cancellations can erase entire weeks.

## 2-3 LESSONS / WEEK



### Best balance for most students

Regular repetition without requiring a full-time schedule.

## 4+ LESSONS / WEEK



### Fastest

Works well when you can also keep up with ground study and recovery.

#### BETWEEN LESSONS

Complete ground school • Review the debrief • Chair-fly procedures • Arrive prepared • Schedule ahead

*A lower hourly price can still cost more overall when weak instruction or inconsistent training creates extra hours.*



NEXT RATING

# Instrument Rating

**Capability is useful. Judgment is essential.**

Build the precision, weather judgment, workload management, and procedures needed to operate under instrument flight rules.

**\$6,900**

STARTING ESTIMATE

**6 weeks**

POSSIBLE FAST-TRACK

**50h XC**

PIC CROSS-COUNTRY

**40h**

INSTRUMENT TIME

## WHAT IT BUILDS

- Precise aircraft control and instrument scan
- Weather interpretation and go/no-go judgment
- IFR procedures, communication, and workload management
- Safer, more capable personal and professional flying

## PILOT RISE DIFFERENCE

- FAA-approved BATD integrated into training
- Modern avionics and DFW airspace experience
- Actual IFR experience when practical and safe
- Scenario-based work, not only checkride profiles

[Explore Instrument Rating training](#)



CAREER

# The professional pilot path

Career training is not one giant course. It is a sequence of certificates, experience, and increasing responsibility.

## COMMERCIAL

250 total hours

**\$13,700 starting**

Certificate required for many paid pilot roles.

## CFI

As quick as 4 weeks

**\$4,300 starting**

Develop right-seat proficiency and learn to teach.

## CFI-I

As quick as 2 weeks

**\$3,300 starting**

Add instrument-instructor privileges and broader experience.



***"I wouldn't be an airline pilot without this flight school."***

Karl completed Private, Instrument, and Commercial training before moving into professional flying for a major airline.

### WHAT COMES AFTER THE CERTIFICATES

Many career students instruct to build paid experience toward airline hiring minimums. Multi-engine training often makes the most financial sense later, closer to airline eligibility.

[View the complete course path](#)



EQUIPMENT

# Aircraft and simulator: choose the right tool

The best trainer is the one that fits your body, budget, availability, and learning objective. You may use more than one aircraft during training.



LOWEST COST

## CESSNA 150

Two-seat trainer with strong stick-and-rudder feedback and the lowest hourly cost.

Best for lighter student-instructor combinations.



MORE ROOM

## CESSNA 172

Four-seat trainer with more cabin room, payload flexibility, and modern avionics.

A strong bridge into instrument training.

**FAA-Approved**



**BATD**

PRACTICE MORE

## FAA-APPROVED BATD

Practice procedures, emergencies, radio work, scan, and IFR scenarios at lower cost.

Student access is included; terms and instructor time may apply.  
**FREE TO USE**

**Fleet, avionics, rates, and availability change. Confirm the current aircraft and choose based on fit, comfort, and training value.**



## TRAINING

# Beyond the FAA minimums

The FAA minimums are the starting line. Pilot Rise integrates 17 additional real-world skills into the normal training timeline so your certificate reflects readiness. Not just trained. **READY** for the realities of everyday flying.



1 Observation Flights (backseating)

2 Class B operations

3 Emergency simulator work

4 Navigation without GPS

5 Airport-to-Airport and Mission Integration

6 Advanced crosswind training

7 Enhanced night training

8 Real Grass Runway Landings

[See all training enhancements](#)



SAFETY

# Safety and maintenance are systems

Safety is not a slogan or the absence of cancellations. It is a repeatable system for identifying risk, making decisions, verifying standards, and maintaining reliable aircraft.

## POLICY

Published weather minimums, checklists, and school-wide operating standards.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Threats identified before each flight and reassessed as conditions change.

## ASSURANCE

Stage checks, instructor oversight, open reporting, and trend monitoring.

## MAINTENANCE

FAA-certified A&P/IA oversight, 100-hour inspections, and on-site support.

**The safe decision may be to cancel. When conditions permit, the productive decision may be to adapt the lesson to a simulator, ground objective, another aircraft, or a different skill.**

[Review the Pilot Rise safety system](#)



## LOCATIONS

# Choose the campus that fits your training

Both locations use the same training standards. The better choice may depend on commute, airspace, aircraft availability, and the experience you want early in training.



## DALLAS EXECUTIVE

KRBD • DALLAS

- Control tower and real ATC from day one
- Two runways for wind and operational flexibility
- Multiple instrument approaches
- Nearby Grand Prairie, Lancaster, and Mid-Way
- Full-service airport environment

**5673 Apollo Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75237**

[Dallas location details](#)



## HICKS AIRFIELD

T67 • FORT WORTH

- Flexible non-towered operations
- Quick access to the practice area
- Alliance and Meacham nearby for tower practice
- On-site maintenance support
- Efficient departure and lesson adaptation

**628 Aviator Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76179**

[Hicks location details](#)



BEGIN

# Start smart before Lesson 1

A little planning before the first full lesson prevents avoidable delays, unnecessary purchases, and expensive gaps later.

## BEFORE YOU START

- 1 Discuss FAA medical questions early, before significant spending.
- 2 Choose a realistic training frequency and reserve study time.
- 3 Begin ground school and complete assigned preparation.
- 4 Bring the required ID and citizenship or AFSP documentation.
- 5 Wait for instructor guidance before buying expensive equipment.

## WAYS TO PAY

### PAY AS YOU GO

No required course prepayment; train at your own pace.

### AOPA / PERSONAL LOANS

Flexible lines of credit or outside loans may fit some students.

### FLIGHT TRAINING FINANCING

Career-path or individual-certificate options through multiple lenders.

### 529 PLANS

Eligible credentialing expenses may qualify; confirm with the plan administrator or tax advisor.

[Financing options](#)

[529 plan information](#)

[Book Discovery Flight or Lesson 1](#)

*Lender terms, tax treatment, approval, and eligibility vary. Verify current details before making financial decisions.*



PILOT RISE



# READY TO FLY?

Book a Discovery Flight or begin with Lesson 1.



**BOOK ONLINE**

[pilotrise.com/book-flight-dfw](https://pilotrise.com/book-flight-dfw)

817-755-5652

## DALLAS EXECUTIVE

5673 Apollo Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75237

## HICKS AIRFIELD

628 Aviator Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76179

[manager@pilotrise.com](mailto:manager@pilotrise.com)

[pilotrise.com](https://pilotrise.com)



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## Not just certified. Ready.

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