



# PRIVATE PILOT FLIGHT PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a private pilot?

Becoming a private pilot is the first step in any person's flight journey, regardless of their ultimate goal in aviation. A Private Pilot is able to fly as the Pilot in Command of an aircraft for pleasure but not for compensation or hire.

### What classes are required for Private Pilot Flight Class?

Freshman - none required

Sophomore - Introduction to Flight Planning,  
Introduction to Aviation Weather & ATC (recommended but  
not required)

Junior - Private Pilot Ground School

Senior - Private Pilot Flight Lab



## **How much does flight training cost?**

The current rate for flight students is \$175.00/hour. This is subject to change year to year. Per the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), private pilots require a minimum of 40 hours of logged flight training. WMAA average is 50-55 hours and the national average is between 70-75 hours. We tell families to estimate a total cost of \$8000-\$10,000 to complete Private Pilot Flight Training. Additional costs also include FAA Flight Medical (\$100-\$170), FAA Private Pilot Written Exam (\$170), Advanced Simulation Fees (\$500), and Checkride Fee (\$800). Additionally, flight training fees will be collected utilizing a "Pay and Proceed" policy in which students ensure enough funds are deposited to remain in the black throughout the year. Typically students begin the year with \$1,500 and pay as flying progresses.

## **What scholarships are available?**

Currently, the WMAA Foundation offers three unique scholarships for WMAA students: Ray Foundation Scholarship, Frey Foundation Scholarship, and Secchia Family Service Scholarship. This diverse range of scholarships offer opportunities based on merit, need, and service. Further information regarding these scholarships and the criteria for each can be found any time at [WMAAFoundation.org/Scholarships](http://WMAAFoundation.org/Scholarships). Students are eligible to apply for these scholarships in the month of February of their junior year while enrolled in ground school.

Aside from WMAA Foundation scholarship opportunities, there are many outside entities that offer scholarship funds that can be applied at WMAA. Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association(AOPA), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and Women in Aviation International (WAI) offer scholarship opportunities annually.

## **What are the prerequisites to be in the flight class?**

Students must:

- pass Private Pilot Ground School during 11th grade with a minimum grade of "C" for the first and second semesters
- pass the FAA Private Pilot Written Exam with a minimum score of 70%
- possess a valid FAA Medical Certificate (third class minimum) upon submission of flight program application
- have U.S. citizenship

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## **What is an FAA medical certificate?**

Per the FAA, all pilots are required to obtain a medical certificate for flying. There are different tiers of medicals depending on what type of flying the pilot will be undertaking.

-First Class: Airline transport pilot (allows a pilot to act as Pilot in Command on a scheduled air carrier aircraft, the kind of plane you fly if you buy a ticket on a commercial airliner)

-Second Class: Commercial pilot, flight engineer, flight navigator, or air traffic control tower operator (allows the pilot to fly for compensation)

-Third Class: Private pilot or recreational pilot (**minimum requirement for WMAA student pilot**)

## **How do I obtain a medical?**

Medical certificates must create an account in MedXPress and contact an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) to review your medical history to ensure you are medically qualified to fly.

If you do not have medical history that raises concern from the FAA, your medical involves one, relatively short appointment. Fees will differ depending on the doctor you see and his/her office.

## **What is MedXPress?**

MedXPress is the site all applicants will use to collect their past medical history that will be reviewed by the AME to determine if the applicant is fit for flight. Links to MedXPress are included below.

## **What medical conditions or history could potentially prevent me from flying?**

Below is a list of past medical issues that extended the medical process by months, sometimes years. If you have or ever have been diagnosed with:

- ADD
- ADHD
- Heart condition
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Diabetes Type 1/2
- Attempted Suicide
- Migraines
- Concussions
- OCD
- COPD
- Conditions that require medication

WMAA recommends utilizing sources available at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association regarding medical challenges at <https://www.aopa.org/>

## **Where do I take the FAA Private Pilot Written Exam? How much does it cost?**

Once the student successfully passes Private Pilot Ground School and scores an 80% or better on the course final exam, a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) will provide an “endorsement” for the student to schedule a date to take the Private Pilot Written Exam at a PSI Testing Center. The cost is approximately \$175.

## **What are my post-secondary options?**

Some students are satisfied with the privileges of being a private pilot but many students will continue their flight journey at a university or flight academy that will teach them the next levels of aviation such as instrument flight (flying in clouds), commercial pilot (can now be paid to fly), becoming a CFI (certified flight instructor), and ultimately an Airline Transport Pilot (flying passengers on scheduled airlines). Additionally, students can join the military and seek training while serving our country.

## **How does flight scheduling work? How does it impact the high school schedule?**

The Private Pilot Flight Lab consumes three class periods of your senior year. The majority of flying will take place outside of flight class and will involve missing other classes throughout the school year. Students **MUST** always obtain permission from the teacher whose class they will miss. Students are responsible for making up the work that is missed while s/he is out flying. Each week students will “bid” for the following week of flying. To be eligible for bidding students must be passing **ALL** classes and have a positive account balance for flight training fees.

## **Where are the flight classes located?**

All flight classes take place at WMAA’s Flight Training Center. This building is located across the street from the main campus and is a five minute walk from main campus.

## **Helpful Resources:**

For Scholarships:

- [WMAA Foundation](#)
- [Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association \(AOPA\)](#)
- [Women in Aviation International \(WAI\)](#)

For Medical:

- MedXPress:
  - [About MedXPress](#)
  - [Create a MedXPress account](#)
  - [A helpful “How to” complete the MedXPress process](#)
- [Find an AME](#)
- [AOPA Support](#)