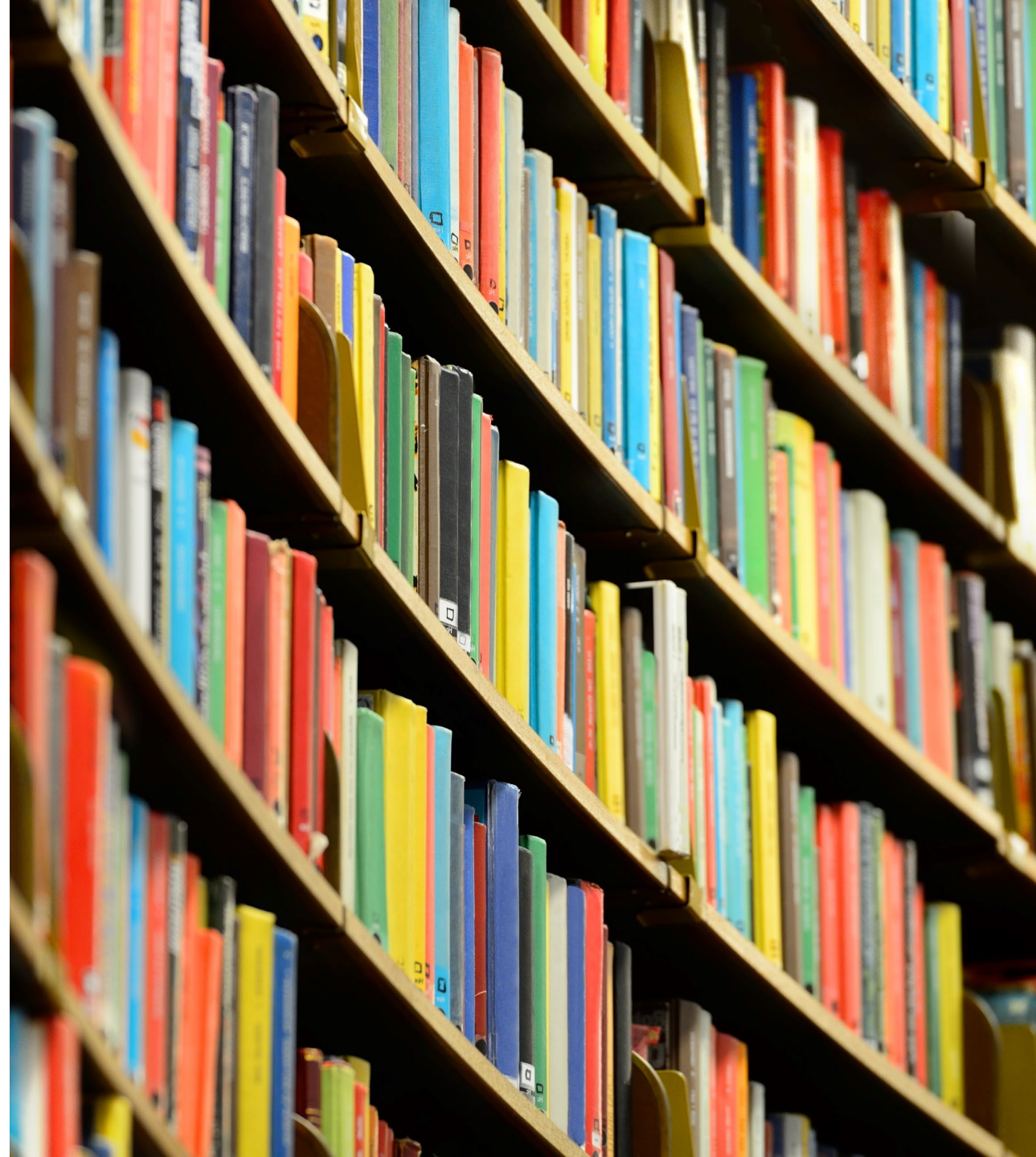




# Resources

- Terminology
- References
- Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs)
- Miscellaneous FAA Websites



**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The federal government organization primarily responsible for the advancement, safety, and regulation of civil aviation. The FAA establishes regulations and policies prevailing over flight, including flight training, flight schools, and certificates issued, and it oversees the development of air traffic safety and control.

**Flight Standards District Office (FSDO):** A FSDO is a local field office acting as an extension of the FAA. FSDOs promote safe transportation by setting standards and regulations for oversight of airmen, air operators, and air agencies. They approve flight and ground training curricula at flight schools under their geographic jurisdiction and issue AACs.

**Air Agency Certificate (AAC):** An AAC is issued by the FAA to flight schools authorizing them to offer courses of instruction leading to pilot licenses and ratings. AACs list the specific flight programs approved by the FAA for the school to which the certificate is issued. Certificate validity dates vary but are always indicated on the certificates. A Letter of Authorization must accompany an AAC.

**Letter of Authorization (LoA):** A LoA is issued to the school with the AAC. It provides a listing of the specific programs that have been authorized for the school to offer. It expires the same time as the AAC.

**Flight School:** A school, other than an IHL, or an entity such as an aero club, located in a state, that has been issued either a pilot school certificate or a provisional pilot school certificate by the FAA which specifies each course the school is approved to offer under 14 CFR Part 141.

**Medical Certificates (Med Certs):** Med Certs are issued upon completion of an appropriate medical examination by an FAA approved doctor. All pilots must have an appropriate Med Cert to be authorized to fly.

- First Class: The highest level of medical certificates – required for pilots to use the privileges of an ATP rating.
- Second Class: Required for pilots using the privileges of their commercial pilot’s license or providing flight instruction.
- Third Class: The initial certificate required of pilots to use the privileges of their private pilot’s license.

**Training Course Outline (TCO):** 14 CFR Part 141.55 describes the requirements of a training course outline and syllabus. Each flight training program approved for Veterans’ training must have an FAA approved TCO. A TCO normally contains details of the school’s facilities, aircraft approved for the course, instructors, procedures for operations, airspace and airfield facilities, and a training syllabus for each flight training program.

**Training Syllabus:** The syllabus is comprised of all lessons, both ground and flight training, which must be successfully completed prior to taking the FAA licensing/certification check ride for the program of training. Several standardized training syllabi are available (Jeppesen); or a flight school may have its own unique FAA approved syllabus for one or all its respective programs. VA payment for the flight and ground training time may not exceed the 14 CFR Part 141 minimum hourly course requirements for each individual program.

**Chief Flight Instructor:** The Chief Flight Instructor is the person in charge of all flight training at a flight school. Each school must designate a Chief Flight Instructor.

**Stage Checks:** Stages are subdivisions of the flying or ground training syllabus of instruction and may be subdivided into individual lessons corresponding to a flight or ground training event. Satisfactory completion of a stage check indicates the student is ready to progress to the next stage of the syllabus.

**Flight Training Device (FTD):** Replica of aircraft instruments, equipment, panels, and controls in an open flight deck area or an enclosed cockpit replica

**Fixed Wing:** An aircraft is described as fixed wing when it derives most of its lift from a stationary or variable geometry wing, as opposed to a helicopter which derives its lift from rotors.

**Rotary Wing or Rotorcraft:** An aircraft that is propelled and lifted by the action of the wings (rotors) such as a helicopter.

**Dual Hours:** Flight time which a student is receiving instruction from a licensed and rated pilot on board a dual control aircraft.

**Solo Hours:** Flight time during which a student pilot is the sole occupant of the aircraft.

**Pre/Post:** Number of hours spent in preflight briefings, preparation for dual flight training, and post-flight critiques, or assessment and discussion of how the student performed during the training.

**Full Flight Simulator (FFS):** Replica of a specific type or make, model, and series of aircraft cockpit; includes equipment and computer programs necessary to represent aircraft operation in ground and flight conditions, a visual system providing an out-of-the-cockpit view and has the full range of capabilities of the systems installed in the device.

**Commercial Pilot:** The course of instruction leading to licensing as a commercial pilot, authorized to operate aircraft for hire. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix D](#).

**Instrument Rating:** A course of instruction leading to certification to operate an aircraft in instrument meteorological conditions (IMC) during periods of low visibility. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix C](#).

**Airline Transport Pilot (ATP):** Course of instruction qualifying the commercial pilot to perform duties and responsibilities as an airline pilot. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix E](#).

**Ground School Instructor Certification:** Course of instruction qualifying a person to provide instruction in the ground training aspects of flight training. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix H](#).

**Certified Flight Instructor (CFI):** Course of instruction leading to a certification as a flight instructor, authorized to conduct ground or flight training in accordance with the privileges and limitations listed on the holder's flight instructor certificate. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix F](#).

**Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument (CFI-I):** Course of instruction qualifying the CFI to provide ground and flight instruction in all phases of flight planning, flight, and air traffic control procedures when operating in instrument meteorological conditions. Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix G](#).

**Certified Flight Instructor Single Engine Land (CFI-ASEL) and Certified Flight Instructor-Multi Engine Land (CFI-AMEL):** Course of instruction qualifying the CFI to provide ground and flight instruction in single-engine aircraft (ASEL) or multi-engine aircraft (AMEL). Specific details are contained in [14 CFR Part 141, Appendix F](#).



38 USC § 3034(d) – Vocational flight training, requires student already possess a private pilot certificate, meet medical requirements of commercial pilot (2nd class), approved pilot school

38 USC § 3672(b)(2)(A)(ii) – Courses at pilot schools deemed approved

38 USC § 3680A(b) – Approval of flight as part of a standard college degree

38 CFR § 21.4235 – Programs of education that include flight training

38 CFR § 21.4263 – Approval of flight training courses

38 CFR § 21.4266 – Courses offered at branches or extensions

38 USC § 3676 – Approval of nonaccredited courses

38 USC § 3680A(e) – Two-year rule

38 USC § 3680A(f) – Approval of contracted courses

38 CFR § 21.4233(e) and 38 CFR § 21.4252(m) – Approval of contracted courses

38 CFR § 21.4251 – Two-year rule

38 CFR § 21.4254 – Approval of nonaccredited courses

The Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) are a compilation of FAA regulations governing all aspects of flight training, air carrier operations, medical requirements for pilots, aviation safety, aircraft maintenance training, airfield and airspace operations within the US, Its territories, and their respective boundaries.

## 14 CFR Part 61

Specifies the requirements for various pilots' licenses and ratings. Part 61 relates to one-on-one training without regard to a standard curriculum or school training (training to proficiency). All courses under Part 61 must meet the criteria listed for each course within 14 CFR 61 and must be turned in as addendums to the SAA for approval.

## 14 CFR Part 141

Specifies the requirements for schools to train students for pilots' licenses and ratings. Training under part 141 may be approved for the enrollment of Veterans and others eligible for VA education benefits because it specifically relates to school training and standard course outlines that must be followed.

## 14 CFR Part 142

Specifies the requirements to train students to fly using simulators.

## **Compliance and Liaison Advisory 223-15-01: IHL Degree Programs Involving Training Provided and Charged on an Hourly Basis, Dated *September 1, 2015***

Mandates the need for the required number of training hours per flight course to be listed within the college catalog along with a composite listing of all mandatory fees. It also requires that the number of hours required is also mandatory for all non-Veteran students.

## **Compliance and Liaison Advisory 223-15-02: IHL Degree Programs Involving Private Pilot Courses Provided Under Contract With Flight Schools, Dated *December 4, 2015***

Requires all IHLs with contracted flight programs with contracted vocational flight programs approved for the use of VA education benefits to:

- Remove Private Pilot from the program, or;
- Contract with an IHL that has its own “in house” Private Pilot course, or;
- Bring their Private Pilot course “in house” and teach under Part 61.



# Miscellaneous FAA Websites

[FAA  
FSDO  
Search](#)

[FAA  
CMO  
Search](#)

[FAA Pilot  
School  
Search](#)

[FAA  
Training  
Center  
Search](#)

[FAA  
Registry/  
Aircraft  
Inquiry](#)

[FAA  
Airmen  
Inquiry](#)