

# TEN STEPS TO GET A PRIVATE PILOT'S CERTIFICATE

Ceci Stratford Rev. May 6, 2017

1. Take a Discovery Flight from a flight school or a Young Eagle's flight (if you're 17 or younger) with your local Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter.
2. Decide you WILL become a pilot! You can become a Sport, Recreational, or Private Pilot (airplane, helicopter, or glider?)
  - o Do you want to fly just for fun?
  - o Do you want to be a military pilot?
  - o Do you want to become an airline or corporate pilot?
3. Find a flight school (FBO) or Flying Club and flight instructor (CFI), depending on what kind of pilot you want to be.
  - o If you want to fly for fun or be any other kind of pilot, go to your local airport and research & interview the flight schools, Flying Clubs, and CFIs and choose one.
  - o If military, go to a recruiting office (don't forget the Air National Guard).
  - o If you plan to study aviation at a university, many offer flight training.
4. Plan for how you'll pay for training (savings, scholarships, financing, parents, military, tuition, etc.) It costs around \$10K to \$12K. (See "Ceci's Tips" "List of Scholarships")
5. Take ground training and get an instructor's sign off to take the FAA exam
  - o If you are a Young Eagle, the Sporty's Online Learn to Fly Course is free! (go to [www.EAA.org/youngeagles](http://www.EAA.org/youngeagles) for link) or
  - o Choose an online course or
  - o Take a Ground School class at your local airport or college or
  - o Study on your own
  - o For helpful tools on ground school & the test, see "Ceci's Tips" "Tips for Ground School"
6. Take the FAA written knowledge test. (Passing grade of 70 or better is required before check ride.)
7. Get your Student Pilot Certificate (by applying through your CFI and the FAA IACRA website; see "Ceci's Tips" "Steps for obtaining a Student Pilot Certificate") and your Medical Certificate (by completing MedExpress & passing a medical exam with an FAA designated Aviation Medical Examiner). Both certificates are required for solo. The Sport Pilot License doesn't require a medical certificate, but does require a Student Pilot Certificate.
8. Start flying! Here are the steps you'll go through in flight training:
  - o Fly with your instructor (dual) until solo (flying by yourself).
  - o After solo, build solo hours and start dual advanced maneuvers & night flying.
  - o Take dual & solo cross-countries-5 hours total solo cross-country (50 nm)
  - o Prepare for the check ride.
9. Take a check ride with an FAA designated examiner, which includes:
  - o An oral exam
  - o A flight with the examiner in the airplane
  - o If you pass, you receive your Certificate!
10. With your Private Pilot's Certificate you can take passengers and cross country trips on your own. This is your "**license to learn**"!! To be a safer pilot, fly often and go for advanced training (instrument rating, Commercial Certificate, multi-engine rating, Flight Instructor, etc.)

For more information, go to the AOPA Let's go Flying website <http://www.aopa.org/letssofarflying>