

14 CFR PART 61

Private Pilot Certificate

Flight Training Syllabus

Airplane • Single-Engine Land

Conducted under Title 14 CFR Part 61
Aeronautical experience per § 61.109(a)

Student Name: _____

Certificate No.: _____

Instructor / CFI: _____

Start Date: _____

This syllabus is a training tool built around the FAA Airman Certification Standards (ACS). Lesson order and estimated hours are guidelines; actual progression is governed by student performance and instructor judgment. All hour figures are estimates with margin added; the FAA regulatory minimums are shown separately.

About This Syllabus

This document organizes primary flight training for the Private Pilot certificate, airplane single-engine land, into three stages built from a lesson-by-lesson flight structure. Each flight lesson lists its objective, the elements introduced or reviewed, and the completion standards the student should meet before moving on. Ground lessons run in parallel and cover the aeronautical knowledge areas of § 61.105. Stage checks confirm readiness before solo, before cross-country, and before the practical test.

How progression works

Lessons are completed in sequence, but a lesson is not complete until its completion standards are met. Maneuvers introduced in one lesson are reviewed and refined in every lesson that follows. Where a student needs additional repetition, the instructor repeats or inserts lessons; the tolerance/flex hours built into Stage 3 absorb this without disrupting the plan.

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1 Enrollment Prerequisites & Eligibility

Before certification as a private pilot, and at the applicable points during training, the student must satisfy the eligibility requirements of 14 CFR § 61.103. The instructor confirms these milestones as training progresses:

Age	Be at least 17 years of age for a certificate in other than a glider or balloon (16 to solo an airplane per § 61.83).
Language	Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language.
Medical / Student Certificate	Hold at least a current third-class medical certificate, and a student pilot certificate, before solo flight.
Knowledge Test	Pass the private pilot aeronautical knowledge test (§ 61.105 areas) — instructor endorsement required.
Flight Proficiency & Experience	Receive the training and meet the aeronautical experience of §§ 61.107 and 61.109.
Practical Test	Pass the practical test (checkride) to the standards of the Private Pilot ACS per § 61.107(b)(1).

2 Aeronautical Experience Requirements

14 CFR § 61.109(a) — Airplane Single-Engine Land

An applicant for a private pilot certificate with an airplane category and single-engine class rating must log **at least 40 hours of flight time**, including at least **20 hours of flight training** from an authorized instructor and **10 hours of solo flight training** in the areas of operation of § 61.107(b)(1). The training must include at minimum the elements below.

Reg.	Requirement	FAA Minimum
61.109(a)	Total flight time	40 hr
61.109(a)	Flight training with an authorized instructor	20 hr
61.109(a)	Solo flight training in the §61.107(b)(1) areas	10 hr
(a)(1)	Cross-country flight training (dual)	3 hr
(a)(2)	Night flight training (dual), including—	3 hr
(a)(2)(i)	One dual night XC over 100 NM total distance	1 flt
(a)(2)(ii)	10 night takeoffs & 10 full-stop landings in the pattern	10 / 10
(a)(3)	Flight solely by reference to instruments (control & maneuvering)	3 hr
(a)(4)	Test-prep training within preceding 2 calendar months	3 hr
(a)(5)	Solo flight time, including—	10 hr
(a)(5)(i)	Solo cross-country time	5 hr
(a)(5)(ii)	One solo XC of 150 NM total, full-stop at 3 points, one leg >50 NM straight-line	1 flt
(a)(5)(iii)	3 takeoffs & 3 full-stop landings at a towered airport	3 / 3

Note: The 3 hours of instrument flight training may be accomplished with an instructor either in the aircraft under simulated instrument conditions or, in part, en route during the night cross-country.

3 Aeronautical Knowledge Areas — Ground Lessons

14 CFR § 61.105(b)

Ground training runs in parallel with the flight lessons and prepares the student for the private pilot knowledge test. Each ground lesson (GL) below maps to the knowledge areas of § 61.105(b) and correlates to the flight stage where the material is applied. Ground lessons may be delivered one-on-one, in a home-study/self-paced course reviewed by the instructor, or in ground school.

Ground Lesson	Knowledge Area (§ 61.105)	Correlates To
GL-1	Federal regulations for private pilots; accident reporting (NTSB 830); use of the AIM.	Stage 1
GL-2	Airspace — classes, entry requirements, VFR weather minimums, special use airspace.	Stage 1
GL-3	Aerodynamics, principles of flight, aircraft systems, and airplane performance limitations.	Stage 1
GL-4	Stall/spin awareness, ground reference maneuver theory, and effects of controls.	Stage 1
GL-5	Emergency operations, systems malfunctions, and preflight/procedures review.	Stage 1
GL-6	Aviation weather — sources, reports, forecasts, and recognizing critical weather.	Stage 2
GL-7	Weight & balance, performance charts, and safe operation of the airplane.	Stage 2
GL-8	Navigation — pilotage, dead reckoning, radio navigation, GPS, and use of charts.	Stage 2
GL-9	Cross-country flight planning, fuel/time computations, and flight-plan filing.	Stage 2
GL-10	Night operations, physiological aspects of night flying, and aircraft lighting.	Stage 2
GL-11	Aeromedical factors, aeronautical decision making (ADM), and risk management.	Stage 3
GL-12	ACS review and oral/practical test preparation across all areas of operation.	Stage 3

4 Areas of Operation

14 CFR § 61.107(b)(1) — Flight Proficiency

The student must receive and log flight training toward proficiency in each area of operation below. These are the areas evaluated on the practical test to Private Pilot ACS standards. Every flight lesson in this syllabus advances one or more of these areas.

1. Preflight preparation	2. Preflight procedures
3. Airport operations	4. Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds
5. Performance maneuvers	6. Ground reference maneuvers
7. Navigation	8. Slow flight and stalls
9. Basic instrument maneuvers	10. Emergency operations
11. Night operations	12. Postflight procedures

5 Estimated Hours Summary

The table compares the FAA regulatory minimums with the estimated hours planned by this syllabus. Estimates are intentionally conservative — most students should expect their actual times to fall at or below the estimate, with the flex/tolerance hours in Stage 3 absorbing extra practice.

Category	Regulation	FAA Min.	Syllabus Est.
Total flight time	61.109(a)	40	70
Dual flight training	61.109(a)	20	50
Solo flight	61.109(a)/(a)(5)	10	15
XC flight training (dual)	61.109(a)(1)	3	5
Night training	61.109(a)(2)	3	3.5
Simulated instrument	61.109(a)(3)	3	4
Checkride prep	61.109(a)(4)	3	11

All figures are estimates; overestimation was intentionally added. Solo hours are logged toward the 10-hour § 61.109(a)(5) requirement.

STAGE 1

Pre-Solo Training

Lessons 1–16 • Reg. basis: § 61.87 (pre-solo requirements) • culminates in first solo

STAGE GOAL Develop the student from first familiarization through safe, consistent solo flight. The student learns aircraft control, normal and emergency maneuvers, stalls, ground reference maneuvers, and pattern work to the standard required for solo under § 61.87, including the pre-solo knowledge test and required maneuvers.

STAGE COMPLETION / CHECK Satisfactory Stage 1 check (Lesson 13) demonstrating all § 61.87(c) maneuvers to solo standard, a passing pre-solo written test, and the § 61.87 solo endorsement before Lesson 16.

FLIGHT 1	Flight Control & Instrument Fundamentals	1 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c) intro; 61.105 areas

OBJECTIVE Introduce the airplane, the cockpit, the four fundamentals, and the flight instruments; establish a positive first flying experience.

ELEMENTS • Preflight inspection walk-through • cockpit familiarization & checklists • engine start, taxi, run-up • effect of the primary flight controls • straight-and-level introduction • flight instrument scan

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student can identify the primary controls and instruments and follow along on the fundamentals with instructor assistance. No performance tolerance required.

FLIGHT 2	Straight & Level / Turns / Climbs / Normal Maneuvering / Taxi / Takeoff	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)

OBJECTIVE Build the four fundamentals to a repeatable standard and introduce the normal takeoff and taxi.

ELEMENTS • Flight controls & powerplant/systems operation • taxiing • normal & crosswind takeoff and climb • straight-and-level, turns, climbs, descents • collision/wake-turbulence/windshear avoidance

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student maintains straight-and-level within ± 200 ft and $\pm 15^\circ$ heading and performs coordinated turns with instructor coaching. Foundation is reviewed in every subsequent lesson.

FLIGHT 3	Slow Flight & Power-Off Stalls, Landings	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(9)(10)

OBJECTIVE Introduce flight at minimum controllable airspeed, power-off (approach) stall recognition and recovery, and the normal approach and landing.

ELEMENTS • Maneuvering during slow flight • stall recognition & recovery (power-off) • approach and landing • traffic pattern entry

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student recognizes the stall and initiates a prompt recovery with minimum altitude loss; flies a stabilized approach with instructor assistance on the landing.

FLIGHT 4	Slow Flight & Power-Off Stalls, Landings	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(9)(10)

OBJECTIVE Reinforce slow flight, power-off stalls, and landings toward independent performance.

ELEMENTS • Slow flight refinement • power-off stall series • normal landing repetition • go-around from a rejected landing

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student performs slow flight and power-off stalls to recovery with minimal prompting and manages the approach with reduced instructor input.

FLIGHT 5	Power-On Stalls, Emergency Procedures, Ground Reference Maneuvers	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(10)(11)(12)(13)

OBJECTIVE Introduce departure (power-on) stalls, emergency procedures, and ground reference maneuvers.

ELEMENTS • Power-on stall recognition & recovery • emergency procedures & equipment malfunctions • rectangular course / turns around a point / S-turns • wind-drift correction

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student recognizes and recovers from power-on stalls and flies ground reference maneuvers maintaining a constant radius/ground track with instructor coaching.

FLIGHT 6	Power-On Stalls, Emergency Procedures, Ground Reference Maneuvers	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(10)(11)(12)(13)

OBJECTIVE Reinforce power-on stalls, emergencies, and ground reference maneuvers toward solo standard.

ELEMENTS • Power-on stall series • simulated engine-failure & emergency checklist flow • ground reference maneuvers refinement

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student performs stalls and ground reference maneuvers within pre-solo tolerances and executes the emergency flow from memory with minimal prompting.

FLIGHT 7	Takeoffs / Landings (Pattern Work)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(3)(6)(14)(15) OBJECTIVE Concentrated traffic-pattern work developing normal takeoffs, approaches, and landings. ELEMENTS • Traffic pattern operations • normal & crosswind takeoffs and landings • airport/runway markings and lighting • go-around procedure COMPLETION STANDARDS Student flies a consistent pattern at proper airspeeds/altitudes and completes normal takeoffs and landings with decreasing instructor input.		
FLIGHT 8	Takeoffs / Landings (Pattern Work)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(3)(6)(14)(15) OBJECTIVE Continue pattern work; introduce crosswind technique refinement and emergency approaches from the pattern. ELEMENTS • Crosswind takeoff & landing • forward slip to a landing • emergency approach and landing from the pattern • rejected takeoff COMPLETION STANDARDS Student consistently lands within the touchdown zone under normal and light-crosswind conditions and correctly executes a go-around.		
FLIGHT 9	Takeoffs / Landings (Pattern Work)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(3)(6)(14)(15) OBJECTIVE Build landing consistency and independent decision-making in the pattern. ELEMENTS • Full-stop and touch-and-go landings • pattern spacing and sequencing • radio communications in the pattern • aborted approach decisions COMPLETION STANDARDS Student demonstrates repeatable, safe landings and appropriate go-around/aborted-approach decisions with minimal instructor input.		
FLIGHT 10	Takeoffs / Landings (Pattern Work)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87(c)(3)(6)(14)(15) OBJECTIVE Final pattern polishing prior to the Stage 1 check. ELEMENTS • Consistent normal & crosswind landings • solo aircraft handling differences briefing • emergency return to field COMPLETION STANDARDS Student safely and consistently operates in the pattern and lands the airplane without instructor assistance.		

FLIGHT 11	Full Stage 1 Check Simulation (All Maneuvers / Landings)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all) OBJECTIVE Rehearse the complete pre-solo maneuver set as a mock stage check. ELEMENTS • All § 61.87(c) maneuvers • emergency procedures • pattern operations • self-assessment debrief COMPLETION STANDARDS Student performs all required maneuvers to pre-solo tolerances in a single flight and identifies remaining weak areas.		
FLIGHT 12	Full Stage 1 Check Simulation (All Maneuvers / Landings)	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all) OBJECTIVE Second full rehearsal to confirm solo readiness across all maneuvers. ELEMENTS • All § 61.87(c) maneuvers • consistency under varied conditions • decision-making review COMPLETION STANDARDS Student consistently meets pre-solo standards on all maneuvers and demonstrates sound aeronautical judgment.		
FLIGHT 13	STAGE 1 CHECK — Pre-Solo	2 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all) OBJECTIVE Formal pre-solo stage check evaluating all required maneuvers and knowledge for solo endorsement. ELEMENTS • Pre-solo knowledge test review (§ 61.87(b)) • all § 61.87(c) maneuvers evaluated • emergency procedures • aircraft/airspace/regulation review COMPLETION STANDARDS Student passes the pre-solo knowledge test and demonstrates all § 61.87(c) maneuvers to solo standard; instructor determines solo readiness.		
FLIGHT 14	Deficiency Improvement	1.5 hr
REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all) OBJECTIVE Targeted flight to correct any deficiencies identified during the Stage 1 check. ELEMENTS • Review of identified weak areas • focused maneuver repetition • confidence building COMPLETION STANDARDS Identified deficiencies are corrected to solo standard. <i>Note: Flight to work on any deficiencies found in the Stage 1 check.</i>		

FLIGHT 15 Deficiency Improvement 1.5 hr

REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all)

OBJECTIVE Additional refinement and final pre-solo confidence flight.

ELEMENTS • Final maneuver polish • solo scenario briefing • go/no-go decision practice

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student is fully ready for solo; instructor issues the § 61.87 solo endorsement.

FLIGHT 16 First Solo! 1 hr

REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.87 (all)

OBJECTIVE Student's first solo flight — supervised takeoffs and landings in the traffic pattern.

ELEMENTS • Pre-solo brief and endorsements verified • solo pattern operations • normal takeoffs and full-stop landings

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student safely completes solo takeoffs and landings in the pattern under instructor supervision. Milestone: first solo logged.

Note: Requires current student pilot & medical certificate and § 61.87 endorsement.

STAGE 2

Solo, Tower & Cross-Country Operations

Lessons 17–29 • Reg. basis: § 61.109(a)(1),(2),(3),(5) • night, instrument, and cross-country experience

STAGE GOAL Expand the newly soloed student into controlled-field operations, cross-country navigation, night flight, and instrument reference, while accumulating the solo cross-country experience required by § 61.109(a)(5). By the end of the stage the student has met the dual XC, night, and simulated-instrument requirements and completed the long solo cross-country.

STAGE COMPLETION / CHECK All § 61.109(a)(1),(2),(3) dual requirements logged; solo XC endorsements per § 61.93 issued; and the § 61.109(a)(5)(ii) long solo cross-country completed satisfactorily.

FLIGHT 17	Control Tower Operations	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(iii)

OBJECTIVE Introduce operations at a towered airport: clearances, phraseology, and pattern integration.

ELEMENTS • Towered-airport communications • taxi clearances & hot-spot awareness • sequencing with ATC • Class D/C airspace procedures

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student communicates effectively with ATC and operates safely at a towered airport with instructor coaching.

FLIGHT 18	Control Tower Operations	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(iii)

OBJECTIVE Build proficiency and independence in towered-airport operations.

ELEMENTS • Landing clearances & go-arounds at towered field • runway incursion avoidance • readback discipline

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student handles ATC instructions and towered landings with minimal prompting.

FLIGHT 19	Control Tower Operations	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(iii)

OBJECTIVE Final dual preparation for solo operations at a towered airport.

ELEMENTS • Full towered pattern operations • contingency/lost-comm procedures • 3 full-stop landings practice

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student is ready to solo at a towered airport; instructor endorses per § 61.95 as required for the towered solo.

FLIGHT 20	Towered Solo!	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(iii)

OBJECTIVE Solo flight to a towered airport for the required takeoffs and full-stop landings.

ELEMENTS • Solo towered-airport operations • 3 takeoffs and 3 full-stop landings in the pattern at a controlled field

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student logs 3 solo takeoffs and 3 full-stop landings at a towered airport, satisfying § 61.109(a)(5)(iii).

FLIGHT 21	Cross-Country Flight Training (Dual)	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(1)

OBJECTIVE Introduce cross-country navigation: planning, pilotage, dead reckoning, and diversions.

ELEMENTS • Nav log & flight plan preparation • pilotage and dead reckoning • radio navigation / GPS • diversion and lost procedures • opening/closing a flight plan

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student plans and flies a cross-country leg, maintaining course and identifying checkpoints with instructor oversight.

FLIGHT 22	Cross-Country Flight Training (Dual)	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(1)

OBJECTIVE Reinforce cross-country skills and complete the § 61.109(a)(1) dual XC requirement.

ELEMENTS • Enroute navigation refinement • in-flight replanning & fuel management • arrival procedures at unfamiliar fields

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student conducts a cross-country with minimal assistance; combined with Lesson 21 this satisfies the 3-hour dual XC requirement.

FLIGHT 23	Solo Pattern Confidence	1 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)

OBJECTIVE Solo local flight to build confidence and log solo time toward § 61.109(a)(5).

ELEMENTS • Solo pattern work • normal & crosswind landings • self-directed maneuver practice

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student safely completes a solo local flight; solo time logged toward the 10-hour requirement.

FLIGHT 24	Night XC Training, with pattern laps (50F–KABI–50F)	3.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(2)(i)(ii)

OBJECTIVE Complete the night flight training requirement, including a night cross-country over 100 NM and the required night takeoffs and landings.

ELEMENTS • Night preflight & equipment • night visual illusions & adaptation • night cross-country over 100 NM total • 10 night takeoffs and 10 full-stop landings in the pattern • enroute simulated-instrument work

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student satisfies § 61.109(a)(2): one night XC >100 NM and 10 night takeoffs/landings; much of the § 61.109(a)(3) instrument time is accomplished en route.

Note: § 61.109(a)(3) instrument time can be mostly accomplished en route on this flight.

FLIGHT 25	Solo Pattern Confidence	1 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)

OBJECTIVE Additional solo flight to accumulate solo time and reinforce landings.

ELEMENTS • Solo pattern operations • consistency in normal/crosswind landings • self-assessment

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student logs additional solo time with safe, consistent landings.

FLIGHT 26	Solo Pattern Confidence / Practice-Area Flight	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)

OBJECTIVE Solo flight combining pattern work with practice-area maneuver review.

ELEMENTS • Solo maneuver review (slow flight, stalls, ground reference) • practice-area navigation • solo time accumulation

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student safely practices maneuvers solo and returns to the field with sound judgment; solo time logged.

FLIGHT 27	First Solo XC (ex. 50F–KRPB–50F)	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(i)

OBJECTIVE First solo cross-country flight, applying planning and navigation skills independently.

ELEMENTS • Solo XC planning & risk assessment • pilotage/dead reckoning enroute • unfamiliar-airport arrival • solo XC endorsement (§ 61.93) verified

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student completes a solo cross-country safely; solo XC time logged toward the § 61.109(a)(5)(i) 5-hour requirement.

Note: Solo cross-countries require the specific route/endorsement per § 61.93.

FLIGHT 28 Solo Cross-Country**2 hr****REFERENCE** 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(i)**OBJECTIVE** Additional solo cross-country to build experience and log solo XC time.**ELEMENTS** • Independent XC execution • weather self-briefing & go/no-go • flight-plan and flight-following use**COMPLETION STANDARDS** Student completes a second solo XC; combined solo XC time progresses toward the 5-hour requirement. Be safe, fully prepared, and confident in the airplane.**FLIGHT 29 Long Solo Cross-Country (ex. 50F–KRPH–KETN–50F)****3 hr****REFERENCE** 14 CFR 61.109(a)(5)(ii)**OBJECTIVE** The required long solo cross-country meeting the distance and landing criteria of § 61.109(a)(5)(ii).**ELEMENTS** • Solo XC of 150 NM total distance • full-stop landings at three points • one straight-line leg >50 NM • comprehensive self-planning and execution**COMPLETION STANDARDS** Student satisfies § 61.109(a)(5)(ii): 150 NM total, full-stop at three points, one leg >50 NM straight-line. Everyone progresses differently — this flight is flown only when safe and ready.

STAGE 3

Checkride Preparation

Lessons 30–38 • Reg. basis: § 61.109(a)(4) • test prep within the preceding 2 calendar months

STAGE GOAL Consolidate all areas of operation to Private Pilot ACS standards, complete the § 61.109(a)(4) test-prep training within the two calendar months preceding the test, and prepare the student for the oral and flight portions of the practical test. Flex/tolerance hours absorb any additional practice needed.

STAGE COMPLETION / CHECK Successful mock checkride to ACS standards, all endorsements complete (§ 61.39 / 61.109 / 61.105), and instructor recommendation for the practical test.

FLIGHT 30	Checkride Prep	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Begin final test preparation: review of maneuvers and ACS standards.

ELEMENTS • ACS overview & standards review • performance and ground reference maneuvers to ACS tolerances • stalls and slow flight

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student performs reviewed maneuvers to ACS tolerances; must be completed within 2 calendar months of the test to count toward § 61.109(a)(4).

FLIGHT 31	Checkride Prep	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Continue test preparation with emphasis on takeoffs, landings, and emergencies.

ELEMENTS • Short/soft-field takeoffs & landings • power-off 180 (as applicable) • emergency operations • systems & equipment malfunctions

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student demonstrates takeoff/landing variations and emergency procedures to ACS standards.

FLIGHT 32	Checkride Prep	1.5 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Navigation, instrument reference, and cross-country scenario review.

ELEMENTS • Cross-country diversion & lost procedures • basic instrument maneuvers (§ 61.109(a)(3)) • navigation systems and radar services

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student meets ACS standards for navigation and basic instrument maneuvers.

FLIGHT 33	Mock Checkride	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Full simulated practical test covering oral and flight portions to ACS standards.

ELEMENTS • Oral exam simulation across all knowledge areas • complete flight profile to ACS • single-pilot risk management & ADM

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student performs at practical-test standard on all areas of operation; remaining gaps identified for targeted prep.

FLIGHT 34	Additional Prep	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Targeted practice on any areas identified in the mock checkride.

ELEMENTS • Focused maneuver/knowledge remediation • consistency under test conditions

COMPLETION STANDARDS Identified weak areas are corrected to ACS standards.

FLIGHT 35	Additional Prep	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Continued refinement toward consistent ACS-standard performance.

ELEMENTS • Maneuver polishing • oral knowledge reinforcement • scenario-based decision making

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student consistently meets ACS standards across all areas.

FLIGHT 36	Additional Prep	2 hr
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REFERENCE 14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)

OBJECTIVE Final polish and confidence flight prior to the practical test.

ELEMENTS • Complete profile dress rehearsal • checklist and documentation review • final endorsements verified

COMPLETION STANDARDS Student is fully prepared; instructor completes the § 61.39/61.109 recommendation for the practical test.

FLIGHT 37 Tolerance / Flex Hours (as needed) 10 hr

REFERENCE 14 CFR N/A (flex)

OBJECTIVE Reserve hours to absorb additional practice — e.g., more prep for the towered solo, first solo XC, weather delays, or extra maneuver work.

ELEMENTS • Flexible allocation as required • additional dual or solo practice • schedule/weather contingency

COMPLETION STANDARDS Used only as needed; keeps the plan on track without disrupting the stage structure.

Note: These hours may not all be needed; they provide margin so the estimate is conservative.

FLIGHT 38 PPL Checkride 2 hr

REFERENCE 14 CFR N/A (practical test)

OBJECTIVE The FAA private pilot practical test (checkride) with a Designated Pilot Examiner.

ELEMENTS • Oral examination • flight test to Private Pilot ACS standards • issuance of temporary airman certificate on passing

COMPLETION STANDARDS Applicant passes the practical test and is issued the Private Pilot Certificate (ASEL).

9 Graduation & Completion Standards

The student graduates from this course and is recommended for the private pilot practical test upon satisfying all of the following:

- Met the aeronautical experience requirements of § 61.109(a), including the dual XC, night, simulated-instrument, solo, and test-prep elements.
- Received flight training and demonstrated proficiency in every area of operation of § 61.107(b)(1) to Private Pilot ACS standards.
- Completed all ground lessons and passed the FAA private pilot aeronautical knowledge (written) test.
- Completed the § 61.109(a)(4) test-preparation training within the 2 calendar months preceding the practical test.
- Holds a current student (or higher) pilot certificate and at least a third-class medical certificate.
- Received all required instructor endorsements and the practical-test recommendation per § 61.39.

10 Required Student Endorsements (Reference)

The instructor provides these endorsements at the appropriate points (see AC 61-65 for current language). This list is a reference, not a substitute for the current advisory circular.

Endorsement	Regulation	When
Pre-solo aeronautical knowledge test	61.87(b)	Before first solo
Pre-solo flight training (make/model)	61.87(c)(1),(2)	Before first solo
Solo flight (90-day)	61.87(n)	First solo & recurring
Solo cross-country (each flight / repeated route)	61.93(c)(1),(2)	Before solo XC
Aeronautical knowledge (written) test	61.35(a)(1), 61.103(d)	Before written test
Practical test recommendation	61.39(a)(6), 61.109	Before checkride

Disclaimer: This syllabus is a training aid. It does not replace the regulations, the current Private Pilot Airman Certification Standards, or the specific guidance of your certificated flight instructor. Always verify requirements against the current 14 CFR Part 61 and FAA guidance. All hour figures are conservative estimates and will vary by student.