



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an Introductory Flight and how much does it cost?

A: An Introductory Flight includes a school tour, pre-flight inspection lesson, and a short flying experience. It costs \$150 and typically lasts around an hour.

Q: How can I book an Introductory Flight?

A: You can call 403-886-5191 to schedule your Introductory Flight with an Instructor. The school is open seven days a week.

Q: What will my first flight be like?

A: Your first flight will be an exhilarating experience as you take control of the aircraft with the guidance of your instructor. You'll learn pre-flight inspection procedures and basic maneuvers, experiencing the thrill of flight firsthand. It's a truly inspiring moment that sets the stage for your journey into aviation.

Q: When does Ground School take place and what does it involve?

A: Ground School runs monthly, starting on the second Tuesday of the month, lasting for three weeks. Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, and Saturdays from 8:00am to 2:00pm. The cost is \$375. Additionally, there's a book kit available for \$350, containing all necessary textbooks, maps, and flight tools.

Q: How do I obtain a Medical Certificate and why is it necessary?

A: To become a pilot, you must obtain a Medical Certificate from a Civil Aviation Medical Examiner. It's crucial to do this early as it can take several weeks for Transport Canada to process. There are two categories: Category 3 for a private license and Category 1 for a commercial license. It's advisable to get a Category 1 if you plan to pursue a commercial license. Here is a link to search for aviation doctors in your area <https://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/2/come-meac/s.aspx?lang=eng&l=124>. Our recommendation is to call around and find the doctor with the shortest wait time.

Q: How does the waitlist for PPL and CPL training work?

A: The waitlist for training depends on your completion of ground school, possession of a class 1 or 3 medical certificate, and financial readiness. If you meet these criteria, you may start sooner. To join the waitlist, apply online and await further instructions via email regarding medical appointments and ground school scheduling.

Q: What are the main differences between a Recreational Pilot Permit and a Private Pilot License (PPL)?

A: The main differences lie in cost and restrictions. The Recreational Permit is cheaper by approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 due to less training on cross-country flights and no instrument flying training. However, it comes with restrictions such as no night flying, international flights, additional ratings, and limited passenger capacity. The Private License offers more flexibility in these areas.

Q: How long does it take to obtain a Private Pilot License (PPL) and what is the cost?

A: The minimum cost is \$13,200, but it's advisable to budget for more as it often takes longer to reach the flight test standard. The duration of the course depends on how often you fly. Roughly, if you book 3 flights a week, it takes about 7 months; 5 flights a week, about 4 months; and 1 flight a week, about a year and a half. These estimates include potential cancellations due to weather conditions.

Q: Do you offer scenic flights, and if so, how can I book one?

A: Yes, we offer scenic tours priced at \$245 per hour for up to 3 people. The duration of the flight can be tailored to your preferences. Typically, a flight over Red Deer or Sylvan Lake and back takes about 40-45 minutes. To book a scenic flight, please call 403-886-5191.

Q: Why should I choose Sky Wings Aviation for my pilot training over other schools in the area?

A: Sky Wings Aviation prioritizes personal attention and individualized training for all students. We value feedback and strive to accommodate individual needs while maintaining competitive prices without compromising quality and professionalism. Additionally, our convenient location between Edmonton and Calgary airports makes us accessible. We offer training for both recreational and career purposes, and we also have a 2-year Aviation Diploma program in collaboration with Red Deer Polytechnic.



Q: How does the process work for applying for the Aviation Certificate offered by RDP through Sky Wings Aviation?

A: To pursue both a Business Certificate at RDP and a Pilot License, apply through Sky Wings. Applications are accepted until May 1st for a September start. Minimum requirements apply, and RDP may request additional information or defer your application until grade requirements are met. Once accepted, you'll begin flight training. If you don't have your PPL, don't worry, Sky Wings can start that process for you before the CPL training begins in September.

Q: What are the grade requirements for the Aviation Diploma Program at RDP?

A: Admission to the Aviation Diploma Program requires a high school diploma, with Math and English at the 30 level 1 or 2 with a 60%.

Q: How does the school assist students in finding positions in the aviation industry?

A: Sky Wings Aviation prioritizes its own graduates of Commercial Pilot and Instructor courses for further opportunities. Additionally, they maintain contact with other aviation organizations and refer graduates to them if necessary. Many graduates have been hired by major airlines.

Q: How difficult is pilot training?

A: Pilot training involves learning various topics and mastering skills, but it's not particularly difficult. With dedication and effort, anyone can succeed. The training integrates both flying and ground school, preparing students to become safe and competent pilots.

Q: Are there any physical or educational prerequisites for becoming a pilot?

A: For age, you need to be at least 14 for a student pilot permit and 17 for a private license, with no maximum age limit. A medical exam, required every five or two years for private pilots, ensures general good health. There are no specific educational requirements beyond being able to read, speak, and understand English or French. If you're a Canadian citizen who has graduated from or is enrolled in a Canadian high school, no formal language assessment is needed. If you don't meet these requirements, assistance can be provided for a language assessment. Essentially, becoming a good pilot requires common sense and adherence to flight regulations and personal piloting abilities.



Q: How long does pilot training typically take?

A: The duration of the training is flexible and can be customized to fit individual schedules, whether full-time or part-time. To obtain a Private Pilot License (PPL), a minimum of 45 flying hours is required, with an average of approximately 60 hours. The specific flight hour requirements include 12 hours of solo flying, 5 hours of instrument flying, 3 hours of flying with an instructor on cross-country routes, and 5 hours of solo cross-country flying. In addition, candidates must pass an Aviation-Language Proficiency Test.

Q: Is it difficult to maintain the pilot license once obtained?

A: Renewing your medical certificate every year under 40 and every 6 months for over 40 years old. It's advisable to fly regularly (at least once a month) or undergo refresher sessions with an instructor to maintain piloting skills effectively.

Q: Are there government assistance or financing options available for pilot training?

A: Yes, Alberta residents enrolled in a career program may apply for an Alberta student loan if they hold a private license. Depending on financial circumstances, students may qualify for up to 50% of tuition fees as a grant, with the remainder covered by a low-interest student loan. Non-resident students should apply to their home province's student aid offices.

Q: Can I get a loan for my Private Pilot License (PPL)?

A: Most provinces require you to apply for a loan after acquiring your PPL.

Alberta Student Loans: <https://studentaid.alberta.ca/>

Federal Student Loans: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid.html>

Q: How do I get started?

A: If you still have questions or are unsure, you can speak to one of our professional flight instructors who will be glad to answer any questions that you may have about flying, have a tour of our training center, and/or make an appointment that's convenient for your introductory flight lesson.

Q: What is the Take Off Manual?

A: The Sky Wings Take Off Manual is full of information about our flight school, if you still have questions [check it out here!](#)

