



**Private Pilot Certificate  
with  
Instrument Rating**

# Course Process

## Private Pilot Phase



Prior to starting flight training, it is a good idea to take an introductory flight. Once you begin your training, you will need to obtain the proper training materials, as well as a Third Class Medical Certificate with a Student Pilot's license. Names of FAA certified Medical Examiners can be obtained from the front desk.



You will need both flight and ground instruction. There are two available options for receiving ground instruction at Sonoran Wings. One option is to take the formal ground school, consisting of two, three-hour sessions a week, in our classroom. Another option is to take ground instruction one-to-one with your flight instructor. Each consists of approximately 35 hours of instruction. A third option is to study on your own using the individual study package.

### **Progress Checks**

A progress check is given at the end of each unit of instruction. It is a written or oral quiz covering the material that was presented in the unit.

### **Exercises**

Exercises are assignments that are used to reinforce the material being learned in each section.



Practice FAA Knowledge Examinations are taken on the Sonoran Wings Flight Training Centre testing computer. You must pass three examinations in a row with a score of 80% or higher to earn an endorsement for the actual FAA Examination.



During the Stage I dual instruction of your training, you will learn how to properly checkout and pre-flight an airplane to ensure that it's in airworthy condition. You will also learn how to get an official aviation weather briefing from the Flight Service Station by phone and use the Direct User Access Terminal Service (*DUATS*) via the Internet.

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Your instructor will demonstrate maneuvers such as a normal takeoff, climbs and climbing turns, descents and turning descents, slow flight, stalls, steep turns, ground reference maneuvers and normal landings. With practice and guidance from your instructor, you will be able to perform these maneuvers satisfactorily. The Aircraft Operations Manual (*AOM*), and the FAA Practical Test Standards (*PTS*) will be used to describe exactly how each maneuver is to be performed.

At the end of Stage I, you will be ready for solo flight. Your first solo is probably the most exhilarating thing you will ever do alone. You will also experience a tremendous amount of self-confidence and reward with just a little anxiety to keep you focused.



### **Stage I Evaluation**

The stage I Evaluation is an observation flight conducted by the Chief Instructor or his designee to determine that the Pilot in Training (PT) has gained the necessary flight proficiency to safely fly solo in the aircraft. It consists of a question and answer session about the aircraft and regulatory knowledge required to fly. The question and answer session is followed by an observation flight to insure that the PT is proficient in the aircraft and ready to solo. The complete Evaluation requires approximately three hours.



### **Solo**

After being endorsed by your instructor, you will make your first supervised solo flight consisting of 3 takeoffs and 3 landings. Additional local solo flights will be made to practice previously learned flight maneuvers as well as takeoffs and landings.



### **Stage II Instruction**

In this Stage of instruction you will learn how to perform short and soft field takeoffs and landings and the art of navigating to airports that are more than 50 nautical miles from Tucson. You will even be taught to fly the airplane using flight instruments as your only reference. And, you will learn to fly and navigate the airplane at night. Night flight is very surreal with the sprawling city lights of Tucson contrasted by the blackness of the desert, and a night approach and landing to a lighted runway is an experience you'll want to share with friends after you've gotten your license.

## **FAA Knowledge Examination**

Successful completion of the Knowledge Examination is required prior to receiving your Private Pilot Certificate. It covers all the areas that you have studied in ground school. It is the policy of Sonoran Wings that the Knowledge Examination must be passed prior to the solo cross-country phase of training.

## **Stage II Evaluation**

The Stage II Evaluation is conducted by the Chief Instructor or his designee to determine that the PT has gained the necessary knowledge and skills to safely fly solo cross-country flights. It consists of a question and answer session that covers the aircraft, physiological, and regulatory knowledge required for cross-country flights. The question and answer session is followed by an observation flight to insure that the PT is proficient and able to fly solo cross-country flights. The complete Evaluation requires approximately three hours.

## **Solo X-Country**

After an endorsement by your instructor, you will make your first solo cross-country. One long solo cross-country (*at least 150 NM total distance*) with full stop landings at a minimum of 3 airports is required.

## **Stage III Instruction**

During Stage III you will perfect all of the maneuvers and skills you've learned that will make you a safe and proficient VFR pilot.

## **Stage III Evaluation**

The Stage III Evaluation is conducted by the Chief Flight Instructor or his designee to determine that the PT has gained the necessary knowledge and skills to proceed to the instrument phase of the training course. It consists of a question and answer session that covers all of the content of the Oral Study Guide for Private Pilot. The question and answer session is followed by an observation flight to insure that the PT is proficient in all areas of operation described in the PTS for Private Pilot. The complete Evaluation requires approximately three hours.

## **Instrument Phase**



### **Stage IV Instruction**

During Stage IV you will learn the basic skills required to become a confident and proficient instrument pilot. Your training will concentrate on basic attitude instrument flying, VOR, NDB, GPS orientation, interception and tracking. Intensive use of the Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD) will introduce the PT to instrument scanning, interpretation, and aircraft control. The AATD lessons will be reinforced by practice in the aircraft with your instructor. The training standards to be met can be found in the FAA Instrument Rating Practical Test Standards. There will be approximately 13 hours of 1 on 1 ground training during this stage of the course covering such topics as the FAR's, pitot static instruments, gyroscopic instruments, magnetic compass, navigation and tracking principles, the air traffic control system, National Airspace System, pilot/controller responsibilities, and holding procedures.



### **Stage IV Evaluation**

At the completion of stage IV you will take the Stage IV Evaluation. This is an observation flight conducted by the Chief Flight Instructor or his designee to determine that the PT has gained the necessary flight skills and knowledge to continue on to stage V of the training. It consists of a 1-hour question and answer period followed by a 1.5-hour observation flight.



### **FAA Knowledge Examination**

Successful completion of the Instrument Knowledge Examination is required prior to receiving your Instrument Rating. It covers all the areas that you have studied in ground school and in flight lessons.



### **Stage V Instruction**

During Stage V you will continue to increase your proficiency and skill level while learning about IFR cross-country navigation and terminal approach procedures. You will learn how to plan and execute an IFR cross-country flight including departure procedures, arrival procedures, and instrument approach procedures. The training standards to be met can be found in the FAA Instrument Rating Practical Test Standards. There will be approximately 9 hours of 1 to 1 ground training during this stage of the course covering such topics as cross-country planning, weather, departure and enroute procedures, arrival, and instrument approach procedures.



**Stage V  
Evaluation**

At the completion of stage V you will take the Stage V Evaluation. This is an observation flight conducted by the Chief Flight Instructor or his designee to determine that the PT has gained the necessary flight skills and knowledge to continue on to stage VI of the training. It consists of a 1-hour question and answer period followed by a 1.5-hour observation flight.



**Stage VI  
Instruction**

During Stage VI you will practice your IFR skills and prepare for the End of Course Evaluation and the FAA practical examination.



**End of Course  
Evaluation**

At the completion of stage VI you will take the End of course Evaluation. The End of Course Evaluation is the final observation flight prior to the FAA Practical Test. It is conducted by the Chief Flight Instructor or his designee and is used to determine the PT's readiness for the licensing test. It consists of a question and answer session that covers the topics to be examined during the oral portion of the Practical Test. The question and answer session is followed by an observation flight that will cover all the areas required by the Practical Test Standards. Subject areas and standards set for the Practical Test can be found in the FAA Private Pilot Practical Test Standards (PTS) handbook. The complete stage check requires approximately four hours. You are now ready to demonstrate to the examiner that you are prepared to earn the title of aviator.



**FAA Practical  
Test**

The FAA Practical Test is the final examination leading to your Private Pilot Certificate with Instrument Rating. The examination is conducted by an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) and consists of 3 parts. The first part is an oral examination, which covers the subjects listed in the Practical Test Standards. This part of the test takes approximately 2 hours. The second part of the examination is the flight test and covers the applicable parts of the Practical Test Standards. The flight test takes approximately 1.5 hours. The third part of the test requires approximately 2 hours in the AATD and covers the Instrument flight component of the Practical Test. Upon successful completion of the Practical Test you will receive a Private Pilot Certificate with Instrument Rating.