You must be at least 17 years old, at the time of certification, and possess a current FAA medical certificate.

**Private Pilot**

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, takes about six months.

**Private Pilot FAA Requirements:**
- * Minimum 40 hours (hrs.) total flight time
- The national average is 65 to 75 hrs.
- 20 hrs. of dual flight time (with an instructor)
  - 3 hrs. of cross-country flight training
  - 3 hrs. at night with 10 takeoffs and landings
  - 100 nautical mile (nm.) night cross-country flight
  - 3 hrs. of instrument training
  - 3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride
- 10 hrs. of solo flight time (without an instructor)
  - 5 hrs. of cross-country flying
  - 150 nm. cross-country flight

**Private Pilot Flight Training Sequence:**
1. Presolo
2. Solo (an experience you'll never forget)
3. Advanced maneuvers and cross-country flying
4. Solo cross-country flight
5. Instrument and night flying
6. 150 nm. cross-country flight
7. Review for the FAA written test
8. Review for the FAA checkride

**Instrument Pilot**

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, is normally about four months.

**Instrument Pilot FAA Requirements:**
- The national average is 60 to 65 hrs.
- * 50 hrs. of cross-country flight time as pilot-in-command
- * 40 hrs. of simulated or actual instrument flight time
- 20 hrs. may occur in an FAA approved, advanced aviation training device (AATD), which OCC uses in order to reduce costs and greatly improve training efficiency.
- 15 hrs. of instrument instruction in an airplane
- 250 nm. instrument cross-country flight
- 3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride

**Instrument Pilot Flight Training Sequence:**
1. Instrument scanning and interpretation
2. Radio and GPS navigation
3. Holding patterns
4. Instrument approaches
5. Cross-country flying
6. Review for the FAA written test
7. Review for the FAA checkride

**Commercial Pilot**

The course, based on two or three sessions per week, is normally about two months.

**Commercial Pilot FAA Requirements:**
- * 250 hrs. total flight time (50 hrs. of FTD time allowed) -
  - 100 hrs. in powered aircraft -
  - 100 hrs. pilot-in-command (no flight instructor) -
    - 50 hrs. in an airplane -
    - 50 hrs. of cross-country flying -
  - 20 hrs. of training (ground and flight)
  - 10 hrs. of instrument training
  - 10 hrs. of instruction in a complex airplane
  - 100 nm., 2 hr. day cross-country flight
  - 100 nm., 2 hr. night cross-country flight
  - 3 hrs. preparing for the FAA checkride
  - 10 hrs. of solo flying
    - One 300 nm. flight that's at least 250 nm.
    - 5 hrs. of night flying with 10 takeoffs and landings

Note: FAA time requirements are considerably less than the national average — grossly inadequate for learning to fly in today’s U.S. airspace. To solve that dilemma, the FAA publishes a practical test standard (PTS) for each certificate and rating, which mandates training to proficiency, not flight time. The national average reflects that requirement.