

Training Costs

The **minimum** number of hours required to achieve the private pilot license (PPL) is 40 flight hours. However, you should plan on needing to supplement your training with at least a few additional hours. This PPL cost estimation is for **40 hours of flight training** in a Cessna 172, which seats up to 4 people.

Item	Cessna 172
40 flight hours in a Cessna 172 at \$160 an hour	\$ 6,400
40 hours ground instruction at \$50 an hour	\$ 2,000
20 flight hours with a Flight Instructor at \$50 per hour	\$ 1,000
Aircraft rental insurance (required at time of solo flight; estimate)	\$ 500
Books and course materials	\$ 300
FAA Written Exam	\$ 200
FAA Flight Exam (Checkride)	\$ 800
Miscellaneous Costs (Medical exam etc.)	\$ 200
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 11,400

(March - 2023 / All prices are subject to change.)

§ 61.109 Aeronautical experience. (Subpart E -- Private Pilots)

(a) For an airplane single-engine rating. Except as provided in paragraph (k) of this section, a person who applies for a private pilot certificate with an airplane category and single-engine class rating must log at least 40 hours of flight time that includes at least 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training in the areas of operation listed in § 61.107(b)(1) of this part, and the training must include at least -

- (1) 3 hours of cross-country flight training in a single-engine airplane;
- (2) Except as provided in § 61.110 of this part, 3 hours of night flight training in a single-engine airplane that includes -
 - (i) One cross-country flight of over 100 nautical miles total distance; and
 - (ii) 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport.
- (3) 3 hours of flight training in a single-engine airplane on the control and maneuvering of an airplane solely by reference to instruments, including straight and level flight, constant airspeed climbs and descents, turns to a heading, recovery from unusual flight attitudes, radio communications, and the use of navigation systems/facilities and radar services appropriate to instrument flight;
- (4) 3 hours of flight training with an authorized instructor in a single-engine airplane in preparation for the practical test, which must have been performed within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test; and
- (5) 10 hours of solo flight time in a single-engine airplane, consisting of at least -
 - (i) 5 hours of solo cross-country time;
 - (ii) One solo cross country flight of 150 nautical miles total distance, with full-stop landings at three points, and one segment of the flight consisting of a straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles between the takeoff and landing locations; and
 - (iii) Three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport with an operating control tower.

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