

Accelerate Flight Student Start Guide

Thank you for choosing to work with us on your journey to be a great pilot. This guide outlines how we'll work together, what to expect, and how to prepare so you can get the most from your training.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a basic orientation of how we will work together, work you can do independently, and resources to help you get the most from your training. As always, if you have any questions, please do reach out.

Contact Information (Waukesha Location):

Stein's Aircraft Services

[2651 Aviation Dr, Waukesha, WI 53188](https://www.steinaircraft.com/2651-Aviation-Dr-Waukesha-WI-53188)

7am - 10:30pm

262-544-2031

roger@stein.aero

1. Logistics

- a. We will meet at **Stein's Aircraft Services**, Waukesha. It is the second-to-last building at the end of Aviation drive, a brown building on the right side with a portico.
 - i. You can enter the doors under the portico and follow along the offices to the lounge at the far end, directly ahead past the jets. There is a receptionist and a waiting area there.
 - ii. We have a locked Flight Training Room where you can store any belongings during our lessons if needed.
 - iii. Your instructor will meet you in the lobby.
 - iv. What you should bring to your first lesson:
 1. Dress as you might for an hour's car ride, depending on weather. Close-toed shoes are necessary.
 2. A pilot logbook (see Pilot Resources, below)
 3. Identification (see Documents, below).
 4. Sunglasses, camera, water.
 - v. Your first lesson will be an introduction of the aircraft, the flight controls, and basic maneuvers. Expect a briefing (about an hour) a flight (typically under an hour), and a post-flight review.
 - vi. Note: Weather delays are a normal part of flight training, and we will work with you to reschedule as needed.
- b. Scheduling
 - i. All our flight schedules are managed through the online tool / app Flight Circle.
 - ii. When we create your account, please activate your account following the instructions in the email you will receive.
 - iii. There are some waivers and other documents you should review when activating your account.
 - iv. You will coordinate your scheduling plan with your instructor. For most students, flying two or more times per week is highly effective to maintain progress and

retention. However, some students are only able to fly once per week or on weekends. This can also work, noting that the total training duration may be extended.

c. Documents

- i. The TSA requires flight schools to verify students are U.S. citizens or approved non-citizen candidates.
- ii. For your first lesson, please bring [evidence of U.S. citizenship](#) such as a U.S. Passport, driver's license, and/or birth certificate.
- iii. Your instructor will review and provide a record (endorsement) of approval.
- iv. A pilot logbook is highly recommended to bring as early as possible, to track your training (see Pilot Resources, below).

d. Insurance

- i. Renter's insurance is required for all renters and Sport / Private pilot students.
- ii. A number of insurance carriers are available; [Avenco](#) and [Assured Partners](#) are popular choices.
- iii. Minimum limits are:
 1. \$500k per occurrence
 2. \$50k per passenger
 3. \$30k hull

e. How to Make the Most of Your Training

- i. Fly as consistently as weather / schedule allows.
- ii. Study the written materials, online materials, and other assigned materials between lessons.
- iii. Ask questions and let your instructor know what's working or not working. The more we know, the more we can help you advance.
- iv. Stay engaged. If you're fatigued, distracted, or not able to keep up with studying, let your instructor know. We want to help you get the most from your time and budget.

2. Certificates & Medical Requirements

a. Apply for your **student pilot's license**.

- i. The FAA's online system for managing pilot certifications is **IACRA**.
- ii. Complete a student application according to the [New User Guide](#).
- iii. Register a [new account](#) in IACRA.
- iv. You may begin training without a student pilot certificate, but it will be required before solo.

b. Arrange to obtain your medical certificate if required. If you are seeking a **private pilot certificate**, a medical is required. If you are seeking a **sport pilot certificate**, a medical is optional. Your Flight Instructor does not need to be involved with medical issues.

- i. It is strongly recommended to begin this process as early as possible, to avoid spending money on training in case any medical issues arise that could prolong or delay training.
- ii. Follow instructions on the [FAA MedXPress](#) website to complete the FAA Form 8500-8.

- iii. You may begin training before obtaining a medical, but it is required before solo (if seeking the above certificates).
 - iv. You will need to arrange an exam with an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME).
 - 1. [Search](#) for an AME. Designee type = AME
 - 2. Schedule a time/place at your convenience.
 - v. You will need at least a 3rd class medical, but may seek higher classes if desired - likely not worth the time or expense yet.
 - vi. Suggested AMEs:
 - 1. Magdalen Stepek, 4202 West Oakwood Ct., Suite 330, Franklin WI, (414) 855-2850
 - 2. Ashley Anderson, 8300 Airport Road, Middleton, WI, (608) 836-1711.
3. Pilot Resources. Consider purchasing these items ahead of time to make your training more comfortable and effective. You may wish to discuss with your instructor when and which items are most relevant and useful for your specific situation.
- a. Pilot Logbook
 - b. Tablet with aviation apps
 - i. iPad or Galaxy tablet (or equivalent)
 - ii. ForeFlight or Garmin Pilot aviation app
 - c. Headset
 - i. David Clark is the most common basic, non-noise canceling headset brand.
 - ii. Lightspeed and Bose offer more advanced noise canceling options.
4. Begin studying the **knowledge material**.
- a. Flight training consists of essentially two components: knowledge material and flight material.
 - b. Before solo, you will need to pass an FAA written exam on the knowledge material.
 - c. You can do this at home to progress much more quickly and inexpensively, but your Flight Instructor can do this with you as well. An ideal scenario is to be working through the knowledge material and flight material in parallel.
 - d. Recommended home study courses:
 - i. [Gleim Private Pilot](#) Course
 - ii. [Sporty's](#) - Note: Sporty's Private Pilot course also covers Sport Pilot.
 - iii. Some students prefer to simply review the reference books below (and/or read the Jeppesen or Machado book), then use a shortened version of the test prep online or book, such as the [Gleim online test prep](#).
 - iv. **Gather reference books.** These are good references to have on-hand both for learning and for later reference.
 - 1. Some people find [a complete kit](#) is convenient.
 - 2. FAA reference books strongly recommended for reference (available online for free or in hardcopy):
 - a. [Airplane Flying Handbook](#)
 - b. [Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge](#)
 - c. [Federal Aviation Regulations / Airmen's Information Manual \(FAR/AIM\)](#)

- d. For a more traditional textbook, the [Jeppesen Private Pilot](#) or the [Rod Machado Pilot](#) books are good options.
- e. [Thriftbooks](#) can be a good option to lower costs on printed books.

5. **Optional: Get to know the Airplane.**

- a. Preview the [RV-12 Pilot's Operating Handbook](#), with emphasis on Section 4, "Normal Procedures", and Section 7, "Description of Aircraft & Systems."
- b. Review the [Dynon system](#), to familiarize yourself with the main flight display.
- c. Prepare for a preflight inspection, by reading the RV-12 checklist, and watching a sample [preflight inspection video](#).

6. **Optional: Review additional materials.** Your instructor will share the specific syllabus you will follow in your training.

- a. Example program syllabi are the [Private Pilot](#) and [Sport Pilot](#) Lesson Plans. We use these as a guideline rather than strictly following them, as we adapt sequencing based on conditions and student progress. This should give you a good expectation of the steps and what homework to work on between lessons.
- b. Download an aviation radio training app. Some students have found [PlaneEnglish](#) highly beneficial.
- c. Review flight training videos. Excellent options are [Flight Insight](#) and [The Finer Points](#) (Visual Flight Training Real Lesson Videos). Focus on VFR or Private Pilot basics.

Next Steps

- Activate Flight Circle
- Schedule your first lesson
- Begin studying knowledge materials
- Arrange for your medical

This may seem like a lot of information, but your instructor will guide you through each step. These actions will help you build a strong foundation and make the most of your training. We're looking forward to working with you toward your goals!