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Typical sequence of steps toward acquiring a Sport Pilot license with a Powered Parachute rating

Qualifications

- Minimum age: 17 years for sport pilot license; 16 years for student (solo only) license.
- Speak, read and write English language.
- Be U.S. Citizen or legal resident – provide birth certificate, passport, or TSA approval
- Possess current Driver License or FAA Medical

Introduction Phase

Introductory Flight – usually takes about one hour including briefing and 15 minute flight (flat \$70)

Acquire Student Pilot Certificate

Go to <https://iacra.faa.gov>. Click on the “New User Guide” in the green strip. Follow the instructions to register as an “applicant.” Record your user name, password and “FTN Number”

From the *New User Guide*, click on “Student Pilot” at the bottom of the page. Follow the instructions to complete the Student Pilot Application.

Schedule a meeting with a Recommending Instructor. Bring Driver License and proof of citizenship (usually a birth certificate or passport) as well as your user name, password and FTN number.

Supervised Solo – usually takes about 3 hours including ground instruction and ½ hour flight (\$250)

Solo Endorsement – usually requires 2 more hours of ground instruction and an hour of flight plus a written quiz.

Receive further ground and flight instruction and build experience

Requirements for rating:

12 hours total flight time, including at least 10 hours of flight instruction and 2 hours of supervised solo.
(Note: Flight time in Introduction Phase counts toward these requirements)

Plan on about an hour or two of ground instruction for each hour of flight. Less if you really study hard.

Prepare for and take the FAA written knowledge test. (anytime prior to final check ride.)

Go to <https://faa.psiexams.com> to schedule an appointment for taking a test. Be sure to specify that the test is for Sport Pilot - Powered Parachute. Typical fee of \$175.00 is required. There is a two-hour time limit but most finish in well under that.

Note: Considerable self-study as well as some ground instruction will be required to successfully pass the written and oral tests. Completing an online sport pilot course such as offered by www.kingschools.com will be very helpful and is highly recommended. Note that an instructor recommendation, in form of a logbook entry or other document, is required to take the written test.

Schedule and take the Oral and Practical Tests with a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE)

Instructor recommendation is required. Plan on \$450 for both tests - usually an evening for the oral with a flight check the following morning.

Congratulations ! You are now a Sport Pilot !!

Additional information:

Flight Instruction - \$150/hr; Ground Instruction \$75/ hr. Suggested budget for entire process: About \$3,500 - \$4,000.

You should plan on spending \$150 or so of the above budget on study, reference, and other materials. These should include at least:

- 1) the Powered Parachute Flying Handbook (FAA-H-8083-29),
- 2) Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (FAA-H-8083-25A),
- 3) Federal Aviation Regulations/Aeronautical Information Manual (“FAR/AIM” – generally published as one volume)
- 4) Practical Test Standards (FAA-S-8081-31). Note: This can be viewed or printed on line. You do not need hard copy.
- 5) Appropriate aeronautical charts (eg Salt Lake City Sectional and/or Terminal Area).
- 6) Pilot Logbook. (Recommended: The Standard Pilot Log ASA-SP-30)

This material is generally available on line (see www.amazon.com, for example) or at a local airport FBO (Fixed Base Operation).

You may acquire your own aircraft at anytime during the certification process. Several makes and models of both new and used aircraft are available. There is a wide range of prices from about \$6,000 to \$50,000 or more. Be sure your aircraft is registered with an “N-Number,” has an airworthiness certificate and has had a current inspection (within the previous 12 months).