

Private Airplane Pilot License Training Costs

The minimum number of hours required to achieve a private pilot's license (PPL) is 40 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 four people. All prices are effective 2020 and are subject to change.

Item	Cessna 172
40 flight hours in a Cessna 172 at \$120 an hour	\$4,800
20 flight hours with a Flight Instructor at \$40 an hour	\$800
Ground School (\$150) or 5 hours of ground training with an Instructor (\$20/hr)	\$150-200
Aircraft rental insurance (required at time of solo flight; estimate)	\$450
Books and course materials	\$150
FAA Written Exam	\$150
FAA Flight Exam (Checkride)	\$350
Misc. costs (medical exam, logbook etc.)	\$150
Total Estimated Cost	\$7,000

Part 61.109:

(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—
 - a) One cross-country flight of over 100 nautical miles total distance; and
 - b) 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—
 - a) 5 hours of solo cross-country time;
 - b) 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
 - c) 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.