

FLIGHT LEVEL DREAMS

PRIVATE PILOT TRAINING SYLLABUS

AIRPLANE SINGLE-ENGINE LAND | PART 61

A structured, proficiency-based roadmap for private pilot training.

WATCH See it first	READ Build knowledge	GROUND Make it make sense	SIMULATE Practice the flow	FLY Apply it
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THE IDEA

See it before you read it. Understand it before you practice it. Practice it before you spend airplane time doing it.

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Independent Flight Instruction | Flight Level Dreams

Revised August 2026

HOW TO USE THIS SYLLABUS

Training Method & Expectations

The sequence stays the same; the amount of repetition changes with the student.

WATCH See it first	READ Build knowledge	GROUND Make it make sense	SIMULATE Practice the flow	FLY Apply it
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- **WATCH** - Assigned videos introduce the visual picture, sequence, and terminology before reading.
- **READ** - FAA handbooks, the aircraft POH/AFM, current regulations, and AIM material provide the primary technical source.
- **GROUND** - Dedicated formal ground sessions are scheduled in 2-3 hour blocks. Other flight lessons use shorter ground reviews as needed. Both are aligned to the applicable ACS Area(s) of Operation and Tasks.
- **SIMULATE** - Once the student understands the maneuver or procedure, simulator or chair-flying practice is encouraged before the associated flight when it adds value. Unless the device and instruction meet applicable FAA requirements for credit, this practice is supplemental and does not count toward § 61.109 aeronautical experience.
- **FLY** - Aircraft time is used to apply knowledge, develop judgment, and build safe, repeatable proficiency.

TRAINING LENGTH IS INDIVIDUAL

- The lesson counts in this syllabus are planning blocks, not guaranteed completion times. A lesson may be repeated, combined, or divided as needed.
- Progress depends heavily on the applicant's ability to self-study, preparation between lessons, consistency and frequency of flying, retention, and ability to apply knowledge in the airplane.
- Weather, aircraft availability, maintenance, and scheduling can affect total training time.
- Advancement is based on demonstrated proficiency and safety - not simply accumulating hours or checking off flights.
- Students who arrive prepared and train consistently generally use aircraft time more efficiently. Real-world scenarios are introduced throughout training to build ADM, risk management, and PIC decision-making as skills increase.

SIMULATOR USE | Practice comes before the associated flight whenever practical and after the student understands the lesson. Use it to reinforce correct flows, radio work, navigation, emergencies, instrument skills, and scenario decision-making. Credit toward § 61.109 is limited to qualifying full flight simulators or flight training devices and applicable instruction; ordinary home-simulator or chair-flying practice is supplemental only.

PRIMARY TRAINING SOURCES

- **FAA Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (PHAK), FAA-H-8083-25C, including current FAA addenda**
- FAA Airplane Flying Handbook (AFH), FAA-H-8083-3C
- Private Pilot for Airplane Category ACS, FAA-S-ACS-6C
- FAA Aviation Weather Handbook, FAA-H-8083-28B
- Current Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) and current 14 CFR
- Current aircraft POH/AFM, supplements, placards, checklists, and maintenance status

PROGRAM MAP

Ground Instruction by ACS Area of Operation

Dedicated formal ground sessions are planned in 2-3 hour blocks and aligned with the current Private Pilot Airplane ACS Areas of Operation and applicable Tasks. Other lessons use shorter ground reviews as needed. Instructor lesson plans and presentation materials remain separate from this student-facing syllabus.

AREA	ACS FOCUS	CORE GROUND TOPICS
I	Preflight Preparation	Qualifications, airworthiness, weather, cross-country planning, NAS, performance/limitations, systems, human factors
II	Preflight Procedures	Preflight assessment, flight deck management, engine start, taxi, before-takeoff checks
III	Airport and Seaplane Base Operations	Communications, light signals, runway lighting, traffic patterns
IV	Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds	Normal, crosswind, soft-field, short-field, forward slip, rejected landing/go-around
V	Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers	Steep turns; rectangular course, S-turns, turns around a point as applicable
VI	Navigation	Pilotage, dead reckoning, navigation systems/radar services, diversion, lost procedures
VII	Slow Flight and Stalls	Slow flight, power-off stall, power-on stall, spin awareness
VIII	Basic Instrument Maneuvers	Straight and level, climbs, descents, turns, unusual-attitude recovery, navigation/radar services
IX	Emergency Operations	Emergency descent, simulated emergency approach/landing, systems malfunctions, survival gear
X	Multiengine Operations	Not applicable to the ASEL training path
XI	Night Operations	Night preparation, vision/illusions, lighting, navigation, takeoffs/landings, emergencies
XII	Postflight Procedures	After landing, parking, securing, discrepancies and postflight habits

GROUND INSTRUCTION | Plan approximately 2-3 hours for each formal ground session. The FAA ACS term used in this syllabus is Area of Operation; each Area contains specific Tasks with Knowledge, Risk Management, and Skill elements. Ground lesson plans are presented by the instructor and remain separate from this student-facing syllabus.

TECHNICAL GROUND

Technical Ground Subjects | Part 1

This curriculum consolidates the aeronautical knowledge required by 14 CFR § 61.105 with the applicable Private Pilot Airplane ACS knowledge and risk-management elements. Subjects are introduced in sequence and revisited as flight workload increases.

ID	TECHNICAL SUBJECT	CORE CONTENT PRIMARY SOURCE SYLLABUS BLOCKS
TS01	Pilot Qualifications, Regulations, NTSB & FAA Publications	Privileges/limitations; medical and currency; required documents/endorsements; Parts 61/91; NTSB Part 830; AIM and Advisory Circular use. 14 CFR; AIM; NTSB 830 F01, F11-12, F20-21
TS02	Aeronautical Decision-Making & Human Factors	ADM; risk management; PAVE/IMSAFE; SRM; hazardous attitudes; aeromedical factors; fatigue; spatial disorientation; hypoxia, CO and hyperventilation. PHAK Ch. 2 & 17 F01, F10-21
TS03	Principles of Flight	Four forces; Newton's laws; lift; relative wind; angle of attack; center of pressure; axes of rotation; stability and controllability. PHAK Ch. 4 F02
TS04	Aerodynamics of Flight	Airfoils; drag; ground effect; maneuvering flight; load factor; bank/stall relationship; left-turning tendencies; slips; aerodynamic limitations. PHAK Ch. 5 F02-03, F06, F08
TS05	Flight Controls	Primary and secondary controls; trim; flaps; adverse yaw; coordination; control effectiveness; aircraft-specific control systems and limitations. PHAK Ch. 6; POH/AFM F01-03, F06
TS06	Aircraft Construction, Systems & Powerplant	Structure; engine; propeller; fuel; electrical; ignition; induction; lubrication; cooling; brakes/gear; pitot-static and applicable aircraft systems. PHAK Ch. 3 & 7; POH/AFM F01, F07, F11
TS07	Flight Instruments & Avionics	Pitot-static; gyroscopic/electronic instruments; magnetic compass; errors; glass-panel concepts; GPS/VOR; avionics limitations and failures. PHAK Ch. 8; avionics guides F01-02, F11, F15-16
TS08	Weight & Balance	Weight terms; datum/arm/moment; CG calculations; forward/aft CG effects; loading limits; aircraft-specific loading methods. PHAK Ch. 10; POH/AFM F08, F15-18
TS09	Aircraft Performance	Performance charts; takeoff/landing/climb; density and pressure altitude; temperature, weight, wind, runway surface/slope and limitations. PHAK Ch. 11; POH/AFM F08, F15-18
TS10	Weather Theory	Atmosphere; pressure; temperature; moisture; stability; clouds/fog; fronts; thunderstorms; turbulence; icing; wind shear and microbursts. PHAK Ch. 12; Aviation Weather Handbook F11, F14-18
TS11	Aviation Weather Information	METAR/TAF; PIREP; GFA; radar/satellite; winds/temps aloft; convective products; weather briefings; EFB weather; conservative go/no-go decisions. PHAK Ch. 13; Aviation Weather Handbook F11, F15-18

GROUND STANDARD | Formal technical-ground sessions are normally scheduled in 2-3 hour blocks. The syllabus block column shows where each subject is introduced or reinforced; it does not mean the subject is taught only once.

TECHNICAL GROUND

Technical Ground Subjects | Part 2

The technical curriculum remains cumulative through solo, cross-country, ACS integration, and checkride preparation. Primary FAA sources and the aircraft POH/AFM control whenever a training aid or video differs.

ID	TECHNICAL SUBJECT	CORE CONTENT PRIMARY SOURCE SYLLABUS BLOCKS
TS12	Airspace & National Airspace System	Class A/B/C/D/E/G; special-use airspace; TFRs; Mode C veil; ADS-B/transponder rules; VFR weather minimums; Special VFR. PHAK Ch. 15; AIM F11, F15-18
TS13	Airport Operations	Signs/markings/lighting; traffic patterns; towered/non-towered procedures; runway incursion avoidance; collision avoidance; wake turbulence; light gun signals. PHAK Ch. 14; AIM F01, F04-06, F13-18
TS14	Radio Communications & ATC	Phraseology; frequencies; ATIS/AWOS/ASOS; ground/tower/approach; CTAF; flight following; lost comm concepts; emergency communications and transponder codes. PHAK Ch. 14; AIM Ch. 4 F01, F04-06, F11, F13-18
TS15	Charts & Navigation	Sectionals; Chart Supplement; latitude/longitude; variation; headings/courses; pilotage; dead reckoning; VOR/GPS; checkpoints; lost procedures; diversion. PHAK Ch. 16 F11, F15-18
TS16	Cross-Country Flight Planning	Preflight action; route/altitude; weather; NOTAMS/TFRs; performance; fuel; alternates; nav log; flight plans; risk assessment and in-flight replanning. PHAK Ch. 16; 14 CFR 91.103 F15-18
TS17	Slow Flight, Stalls & Spins	Critical angle of attack; slow flight; stall recognition/recovery; accelerated-stall concept; spin awareness, entry factors, prevention and aircraft-specific recovery. PHAK Ch. 5; AFH Ch. 5; POH/AFM F03, F10, F12, F19-21
TS18	Takeoffs, Landings & Ground Reference	Normal/crosswind/short/soft-field operations; go-around; slips; stabilized approach; ground-reference wind correction; traffic-pattern energy management. AFH Ch. 6-9; PHAK Ch. 14 F03-10, F12-13, F19-21
TS19	Emergency Operations	Engine failure; emergency approach/landing/descent; fires; electrical/system/instrument failures; emergency equipment; survival considerations; checklist discipline. AFH Ch. 18; POH/AFM F07, F10-21
TS20	Basic Instrument Flight	Instrument scan; straight-and-level; climbs/descents; turns; unusual attitudes; navigation-system use; spatial-disorientation prevention and inadvertent-IMC survival concepts. ACS Area VIII; FAA flight-instrument references F02, F10-11, F15-16, F19-21
TS21	Night Operations	Night vision and illusions; lighting; night weather/navigation; takeoffs/landings; emergencies; definitions, currency and aeronautical-experience requirements. AFH Ch. 11; PHAK Ch. 17; 14 CFR F14

COMPLETE COVERAGE | TS01-TS21 cover the technical subjects used in this syllabus. Ground lesson plans and presentation material remain instructor tools and are intentionally kept separate from the student-facing syllabus.

PART 61 REFERENCE

Minimum Aeronautical Experience | ASEL

14 CFR § 61.109(a) - regulatory minimums. Completion of the minimum hours does not by itself establish checkride readiness.

REQUIREMENT	MINIMUM	WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED
Total flight time	40 HR	At least 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training.
Dual cross-country	3 HR	Cross-country flight training in a single-engine airplane.
Night training	3 HR	Includes one cross-country flight over 100 NM total distance and 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop in the traffic pattern.
Instrument reference	3 HR	Control and maneuvering solely by reference to instruments, including basic attitude flying, unusual-attitude recovery, radio communications, and navigation/radar services appropriate to instrument flight.
Practical-test prep	3 HR	Flight training with an authorized instructor in a single-engine airplane, completed within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the practical test.
Solo flight	10 HR	Includes at least 5 hours of solo cross-country time.
Long solo XC	1 FLIGHT	At least 150 NM total distance, full-stop landings at three points, and one segment more than 50 NM straight-line distance between takeoff and landing locations.
Towered-airport solo	3 T/O + 3 LDG	Three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop, each involving flight in the traffic pattern, at an airport with an operating control tower.

HOW TO USE THESE MINIMUMS | Required experience may be accumulated across multiple syllabus lessons. The separate Progress & Evaluation Guide will track actual completion. Training continues until the applicant is safe, proficient, and prepared for the practical test.

SIMULATOR CREDIT | For this Part 61 syllabus, § 61.109(k) allows a maximum of 2.5 hours of credit toward required flight-training time when a qualifying full flight simulator or flight training device represents the appropriate category/class/type and the training is received from an authorized instructor. Unless those requirements are met, simulator sessions here are practice only.

PROGRAM TARGET | Complete the FAA Private Pilot Airplane knowledge test before F17 / the first solo cross-country.

PHASE 1

Fundamentals & Aircraft Control

Build good habits before adding workload.

F01

Fundamentals / First Training Flight

PHASE 1 | Introduction to the airplane, procedures, and basic control.

WATCH	V01 - Piper PA-28 Preflight + V02 - V-Speeds.
READ	PHAK Ch. 3 pp. 3-1 to 3-8; AFH Ch. 2 pp. 2-1 to 2-14 and 2-18 to 2-22; AFH Ch. 3 pp. 3-1 to 3-10; assigned POH/AFM Sections 1, 4, and 7.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS05 Flight Controls; TS06 Aircraft Construction, Systems & Powerplant; TS13 Airport Operations; TS14 Radio Communications & ATC. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas II - Preflight Procedures; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds; XII - Postflight Procedures. Positive exchange of controls; checklist discipline; preflight; taxi; primary controls; trim; pitch-power relationship; local airport procedures.
SIMULATE	Cockpit flows, checklist use, engine-start sequence, taxi steering/braking, radio calls, and basic pitch/power/trim sight picture.
FLY	Preflight; taxi; normal takeoff; straight-and-level; climbs; descents; turns; trim; normal approach and landing with instructor demonstration.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can maintain basic aircraft control, use trim, follow checklist flow, and explain positive exchange of controls.

F02

Principles of Flight & Basic Maneuvers

PHASE 1 | Turn basic control into precise aircraft control.

WATCH	V03 - Steep Turns.
READ	PHAK Ch. 4 pp. 4-1 to 4-9; PHAK Ch. 5 pp. 5-1 to 5-24 and 5-33 to 5-39; PHAK Ch. 6 pp. 6-1 to 6-12; AFH Ch. 3 pp. 3-11 to 3-25; AFH Ch. 10 pp. 10-1 to 10-3.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS03 Principles of Flight; TS04 Aerodynamics of Flight; TS05 Flight Controls; TS20 Basic Instrument Flight. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas V - Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers; VIII - Basic Instrument Maneuvers. Four forces; Newton's laws as applied to flight; lift; relative wind; angle of attack; center of pressure; stability and controllability; axes of rotation; adverse yaw; coordination; load factor; bank-angle/stall-speed relationship; pitch/power/trim; energy management; clearing procedures; maneuver setup and recovery.
SIMULATE	Steep-turn setup, power changes, trim, division of attention, rollout timing, altitude and airspeed control.
FLY	Steep turns; coordinated climbs/descents/turns; maneuver setup; clearing procedures; basic instrument scan introduced as appropriate.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student demonstrates coordinated maneuvering with improving altitude, airspeed, and heading control.

PHASE 2

Slow Flight, Stalls & Ground Reference

Understand the edge of the envelope before solo preparation.

F03

Slow Flight / Stalls / Ground Reference

PHASE 2 | Develop angle-of-attack awareness, stall recognition, recovery, and wind correction.

WATCH	V04 - Slow Flight; V05 - Power-Off Stall; V06 - S-Turns; V07 - Turns Around a Point.
READ	PHAK Ch. 5 pp. 5-25 to 5-27; AFH Ch. 5 pp. 5-8 to 5-27; AFH Ch. 7 pp. 7-1 to 7-10.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas V - Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers; VII - Slow Flight and Stalls. Angle of attack; stall causes; stall/spin awareness; coordinated recovery; wind drift; ground track; altitude selection; risk management and clearing.
SIMULATE	Slow-flight entry/recovery; power-on/power-off stall sequence; rudder coordination; ground-reference wind correction using a visual practice area.
FLY	Slow flight; power-off stalls; power-on stalls; rectangular course; S-turns; turns around a point; steep turns review.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student recognizes changing control effectiveness, uses coordinated recovery, and understands wind correction instead of memorizing bank angles.

SPIN AWARENESS - AIRCRAFT-SPECIFIC RECOVERY

- Use the aircraft POH/AFM and approved checklist as the controlling procedure. Do not apply a generic memory aid when the aircraft manufacturer publishes a specific recovery technique.
- For training discussion, emphasize power reduction, ailerons neutral, full opposite rudder, and the manufacturer-specified elevator action, followed by recovery from the resulting dive.
- Intentional spin training is not part of this private pilot syllabus unless separately authorized, properly equipped, and conducted for an appropriate training purpose.

PHASE 3

Takeoffs, Landings & Traffic Pattern Development

This phase is repeated until the pattern becomes organized, stable, and predictable.

F04

Pattern Fundamentals

PHASE 3 | Build a repeatable traffic-pattern flow.

WATCH	V08 - Standard Traffic Pattern + V09 - Landing Fundamentals.
READ	PHAK Ch. 14 pp. 14-20 to 14-28; AFH Ch. 6 pp. 6-1 to 6-10; AFH Ch. 8 pp. 8-1 to 8-7; AFH Ch. 9 pp. 9-1 to 9-12.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds. Pattern legs and entries; radio calls; wind correction; stabilized approach; aiming point; roundout/flare; wake turbulence; go-around criteria.
SIMULATE	Pattern flows, radio calls, downwind/base/final geometry, stabilized approach gates, go-around decision practice.
FLY	Normal takeoffs; traffic patterns; normal landings; go-arounds; wind correction; checklist flow.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can explain the pattern, maintain target airspeeds, and recognize when an approach is becoming unstable.

F05

Landing Consistency / Go-Arounds

PHASE 3 | Improve energy control and decision-making close to the runway.

WATCH	V09 - Landing Fundamentals + V10 - Go-Around.
READ	AFH Ch. 4 pp. 4-1 to 4-19; AFH Ch. 9 pp. 9-2 to 9-12 and 9-30 to 9-38.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Area IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds. Pitch/power/energy relationship; stabilized approach; runway perspective; common landing errors; bounced landing response; go-around timing.
SIMULATE	Repeated approach setups; unstable-approach recognition; go-around flow; runway centerline and crosswind control.
FLY	Normal/crosswind landings; intentional go-arounds; recovery from instructor-created unstable approaches when safe.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student makes timely go-around decisions without waiting for the instructor to rescue an unstable approach.

F06

Crosswind / Forward Slip

PHASE 3 | Control drift and descent path without sacrificing alignment.

WATCH	V11 - Crosswind/landing review.
READ	AFH Ch. 9 pp. 9-12 to 9-20; PHAK Ch. 5 pp. 5-8 to 5-11.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Area IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds. Crosswind component; crab versus wing-low; sideslip/forward slip; control positioning during taxi, takeoff, approach, touchdown, and rollout.
SIMULATE	Crosswind control inputs; forward-slip setup/recovery; gust response; go-around from slip/crosswind scenarios.
FLY	Crosswind takeoffs and landings; forward slip to landing; wind correction during taxi and pattern.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student uses correct crosswind controls and can explain the difference between a forward slip and a sideslip.

PHASE 3 CONTINUED

Takeoff & Landing Expansion

Add abnormal and specialty operations only after the normal pattern is becoming stable.

F07

Emergency Pattern / Simulated Engine-Out

PHASE 3 | Build a simple, disciplined response to loss of power.

WATCH	V12 - Engine Failure / Emergency Landing.
READ	AFH Ch. 18 pp. 18-1 to 18-8; AFH Ch. 9 p. 9-28; assigned POH emergency procedures.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas IX - Emergency Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds. Airspeed first; landing-area selection; restart/checklist priorities; communication; securing the airplane; wind and pattern judgment.
SIMULATE	Engine-failure flow, best-glide setup, landing-area selection, ABCDE-style decision flow as adapted to the aircraft/checklist, and radio calls.
FLY	Simulated engine failure in the practice area and/or pattern; emergency approach; forward slip as appropriate; go-around when directed.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student immediately establishes the correct attitude/airspeed and prioritizes flying the airplane over troubleshooting.

F08

Short-Field / Soft-Field Introduction

PHASE 3 | Introduce specialty takeoff and landing techniques after normal operations are controlled.

WATCH	V13 - Short-Field Operations + V14 - Soft-Field Operations.
READ	PHAK Ch. 10 pp. 10-1 to 10-12; PHAK Ch. 11 pp. 11-12 to 11-27; AFH Ch. 6 pp. 6-11 to 6-14; AFH Ch. 9 pp. 9-20 to 9-24; aircraft POH/AFM weight-and-balance data and performance charts.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS08 Weight & Balance; TS09 Aircraft Performance; TS18 Takeoffs, Landings & Ground Reference. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation (Performance and Limitations); IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds. Performance planning; obstacle clearance; runway condition; density altitude; short-field precision; soft-field control philosophy.
SIMULATE	Takeoff/landing configuration flows; target-speed discipline; obstacle scenario; soft-field control-position rehearsal.
FLY	Short-field takeoff/landing; soft-field takeoff/landing; normal landing review; go-arounds.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student understands the purpose of each technique and does not turn a specialty procedure into a memorized trick.

F09

Takeoff & Landing Evaluation

PHASE 3 GATE | Evaluate readiness to move into concentrated solo preparation.

WATCH	Review assigned pattern videos as needed.
READ	Review AFH Ch. 6, 8, and 9 sections assigned above; POH normal/emergency procedures and V-speeds.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas II - Preflight Procedures; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds; IX - Emergency Operations. Oral review: local pattern, towered/non-towered differences, runway markings/signs, go-around, emergency plan, wind limits/personal minimums.
SIMULATE	Optional targeted practice only for identified weak areas.
FLY	Evaluation: taxi, communications, takeoffs, patterns, landings, go-arounds, wind correction, checklists, simulated engine-out as appropriate.

ADVANCE WHEN: No repeated instructor rescue on routine pattern operations; safe decisions and checklist use are becoming independent.

PHASE 4

Pre-Solo Knowledge & Maneuver Integration

The student now has to connect knowledge, judgment, and aircraft control.

F10

Solo Prep - Maneuvers & Emergencies

PHASE 4 | Bring required pre-solo maneuvers and emergency responses together.

WATCH	Review V03-V07 and V12.
READ	AFH Ch. 5 pp. 5-1 to 5-27; AFH Ch. 10 pp. 10-1 to 10-3; AFH Ch. 18 pp. 18-1 to 18-23; POH emergency procedures.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas V - Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers; VII - Slow Flight and Stalls; VIII - Basic Instrument Maneuvers; IX - Emergency Operations. Spin awareness; unusual attitudes; emergency descent; system failures; checklist/memory-item discipline; risk management.
SIMULATE	Full maneuver sequence, emergency scenarios, basic instrument attitude control, radio and workload scenarios.
FLY	Steep turns; slow flight; stalls; ground reference; unusual attitudes; emergency descent; simulated engine failure; pattern work.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can perform the sequence with minimal prompting and immediately recognizes unsafe trends.

F11

Solo Prep - Airspace, Weather, Systems & Instruments

PHASE 4 | Build the knowledge needed to make safe local solo decisions.

WATCH	V15 - Airspace + V16 - Weather Code + V17 - VOR.
READ	PHAK Ch. 2 pp. 2-1 to 2-32; Ch. 7 pp. 7-1 to 7-41; Ch. 8 pp. 8-1 to 8-28; Ch. 9 pp. 9-1 to 9-14; Ch. 12 pp. 12-1 to 12-25; Ch. 13 pp. 13-1 to 13-24; Ch. 15 pp. 15-1 to 15-11; Ch. 17 pp. 17-1 to 17-29. Use current AIM/14 CFR and assigned POH/AFM.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR EACH	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS01 Regulations & FAA Publications; TS02 ADM & Human Factors; TS06 Aircraft Systems & Powerplant; TS07 Flight Instruments & Avionics; TS10 Weather Theory; TS11 Aviation Weather Information; TS12 Airspace & NAS; TS19 Emergency Operations; TS20 Basic Instrument Flight. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; VI - Navigation; VIII - Basic Instrument Maneuvers; IX - Emergency Operations. Airspace; VFR weather minimums; weather products; aircraft systems; instrument failures; wake turbulence; aeromedical factors; supplemental oxygen; local limitations.
SIMULATE	Radio/airspace scenarios; weather go/no-go decisions; VOR tracking; partial-panel/basic instrument scenarios; system-failure recognition.
FLY	Towered and non-towered communications; VOR tracking as available; basic instrument work; system-malfunction scenarios; maneuver review.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can explain local airspace/weather limitations, identify system problems, and make a conservative go/no-go decision.

F12

Pre-Solo Evaluation

PHASE 4 GATE | Determine whether the student can safely operate without instructor intervention.

WATCH	No new video. Review weak areas only.
READ	Review 14 CFR 61.87, applicable local airport procedures, aircraft limitations, and assigned weak knowledge areas.
PRE-SOLO TEST	Complete the instructor-administered pre-solo knowledge test required by 14 CFR 61.87(b). It must cover applicable Parts 61 and 91, airspace rules and procedures for the solo airport, and the flight characteristics and operating limitations of the make/model to be flown. Review every incorrect answer with the instructor before solo authorization.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds; VII - Slow Flight and Stalls; IX - Emergency Operations. Review pre-solo test corrections; student explains limitations, weather decision, pattern procedures, emergency actions, required documents, and solo responsibilities.
SIMULATE	Optional only if a specific procedure needs reinforcement before evaluation.
FLY	Evaluation flight emphasizing independent checklist use, taxi, communication, takeoff, pattern, landing, go-around, maneuver proficiency, and emergency response.

ADVANCE WHEN: Instructor is comfortable endorsing the student for solo and the student demonstrates safe judgment, not just acceptable control performance.

PHASE 5

Supervised Solo & Night

Solo builds independence. Night expands risk awareness and visual judgment.

F13

Solo Traffic Pattern

PHASE 5 | Transition from instructor-supported pattern work to independent PIC decision-making.

WATCH	Review V08-V10 as needed.
READ	14 CFR 61.87/61.89; local solo limitations; POH normal and emergency procedures.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas II - Preflight Procedures; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds; XII - Postflight Procedures. Pre-solo briefing, weather, winds, runway selection, traffic picture, go-around criteria, personal limitations, postflight debrief expectations.
SIMULATE	Optional chair-flying or simulator warm-up before solo when useful.
FLY	Supervised solo pattern work progressing to approved local solo operations.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student consistently makes conservative decisions, maintains centerline/airspeed control, and uses checklists without prompting.

F14

Night Operations

PHASE 5 | Develop legal, practical, and visual skills for night VFR.

WATCH	V18 - Night Flying.
READ	AFH Ch. 11 pp. 11-1 to 11-14; PHAK Ch. 17 pp. 17-19 to 17-29; PHAK Ch. 14 pp. 14-16 to 14-20; 14 CFR 61.109 and applicable night lighting/currency rules.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS02 ADM & Human Factors; TS10 Weather Theory; TS13 Airport Operations; TS14 Radio Communications & ATC; TS19 Emergency Operations; TS21 Night Operations. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds; XI - Night Operations; XII - Postflight Procedures. Night definitions; vision; illusions; lighting; airport operations; weather; passenger considerations; night emergency planning.
SIMULATE	Night cockpit setup; lighting; radio; pattern; navigation; black-hole/illusion discussion; emergency decision scenarios.
FLY	Night takeoffs/landings, required night cross-country, navigation, airport lighting, emergency considerations, instrument cross-check reinforcement.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student maintains orientation, protects night vision, uses conservative weather/airport judgment, and demonstrates safe night landings.

PHASE 6

Cross-Country Training

Turn local flying into planning, navigation, fuel, weather, and decision-making.

F15

Dual Cross-Country 1

PHASE 6 | Teach the complete planning process and make the student execute it in flight.

WATCH	V19 - Cross-Country Flight Planning + V20 - ForeFlight for Student Pilots + V17 - VOR.
READ	PHAK Ch. 10 pp. 10-1 to 10-12; Ch. 11 pp. 11-1 to 11-27; Ch. 16 pp. 16-1 to 16-35; PHAK Ch. 12-13 as assigned for weather; 14 CFR 91.103, 91.151, and 91.159; current chart/Chart Supplement; assigned POH/AFM.
FORMAL GROUND 2-3 HR	TECHNICAL SUBJECTS TS08 Weight & Balance; TS09 Aircraft Performance; TS10-TS11 Weather; TS12 Airspace & NAS; TS14 Radio Communications & ATC; TS15 Charts & Navigation; TS16 Cross-Country Flight Planning; TS19 Emergency Operations. ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; VI - Navigation; IX - Emergency Operations; XII - Postflight Procedures. Sectional/chart symbology; route/altitude selection; pilotage; dead reckoning; VOR/GPS; E6B; fuel; performance; weather; NOTAMS; flight plan; PAVE.
SIMULATE	Nav-log calculations, radio calls, diversion, VOR intercept/tracking, EFB workflow, lost procedure, weather re-evaluation.
FLY	Execute nav log; pilotage/dead reckoning; ATC/CTAF; flight following as appropriate; VOR/GPS; diversion; simulated emergency; destination pattern/landing.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can explain where each number came from and does not rely blindly on the EFB.

F16

Dual Cross-Country 2

PHASE 6 | Shift planning and inflight decisions to the student.

WATCH	Review V19-V20; V21 - Towered Airport Arrival if needed.
READ	Review PHAK Ch. 16; current chart supplement, NOTAMS, weather sources, and POH performance/fuel planning.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; VI - Navigation; IX - Emergency Operations; XII - Postflight Procedures. Student-led briefing: route, alternates, weather, risk, fuel, performance, airspace, frequencies, diversion plan, go/no-go.
SIMULATE	Scenario practice focused on unexpected weather, runway change, diversion, lost procedure, fuel recalculation, or avionics failure.
FLY	Student conducts the flight with minimal instructor intervention, including planning, navigation, communications, diversions, and landing decisions.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student stays ahead of the airplane and recognizes when the original plan should change.

PHASE 7

Solo Cross-Country & ACS Integration

The training goal shifts from completing requirements to operating like the pilot in command.

F17

Solo Cross-Country Evaluation

PHASE 7 GATE | Verify readiness for independent cross-country operations.

WATCH	Review V15-V20 as needed.
READ	Current PHAK/AIM/POH references associated with the planned route; 14 CFR 61.93 and applicable endorsements.
KNOWLEDGE TEST	PROGRAM TARGET: Pass the FAA Private Pilot Airplane knowledge test before the first solo cross-country. This is a Flight Level Dreams training milestone, not a separate § 61.93 prerequisite. Review the knowledge-test report with the instructor and retain it for practical-test preparation.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; VI - Navigation; IX - Emergency Operations. Full student-led cross-country presentation: weather, route, airspace, performance, fuel, alternates, nav log, NOTAMs, risk and go/no-go.
SIMULATE	Optional targeted scenarios only.
FLY	Evaluation may include a representative dual flight or scenario-based review before solo endorsement.

ADVANCE WHEN: Student can defend the plan, identify risks, recalculate when conditions change, and demonstrate mature PIC judgment.

F18

Solo Cross-Country

PHASE 7 | Complete required solo cross-country experience with conservative planning and instructor oversight.

WATCH	No new video; use library for targeted review.
READ	Review applicable route-specific sources before each flight.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Areas I - Preflight Preparation; III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations; VI - Navigation; IX - Emergency Operations. Instructor reviews route, weather, endorsements, aircraft status, fuel, performance, risk, and student limitations before release.
SIMULATE	Optional warm-up or chair-flying before departure.
FLY	Approved solo cross-country flights meeting applicable training requirements and instructor limitations.

ADVANCE WHEN: Safe completion, accurate postflight debrief, and evidence that the student can recognize and explain decisions made en route.

F19

ACS Integration Flights

PHASE 7 | Combine maneuvers, navigation, emergencies, and decision-making into realistic scenarios.

WATCH	Use targeted video review for weak areas.
READ	Private Pilot ACS; review assigned FAA references for any weak knowledge or skill areas.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Applicable Areas I-IX and XII for ASEL, integrated by scenario and student deficiency. Scenario brief built around ACS Knowledge, Risk Management, and Skill elements rather than isolated maneuver memorization.
SIMULATE	Use simulator for abnormal procedures, instrument workload, diversion, or system-failure scenarios that are inefficient or inappropriate to create in the airplane.
FLY	Scenario-based flights with minimal prompting; maneuvers at ACS standards; specialty takeoffs/landings; navigation; emergencies; PIC authority.

ADVANCE WHEN: Performance is repeatable and the student explains the risk-management reason behind actions, not just the maneuver sequence.

PHASE 8

Mock Checkride & Final Preparation

The final phase should feel like evaluation and refinement, not first-time teaching.

F20

Mock Private Pilot Checkride

PHASE 8 | Conduct a realistic oral and flight evaluation against the ACS.

WATCH	V22 - Real Student Mock Checkride.
READ	Private Pilot ACS, especially Areas I-XII applicable to ASEL; current aircraft documents and planned cross-country references.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Applicable Private Pilot ASEL Areas of Operation I-IX, XI, and XII. Mock oral covering knowledge and risk management through realistic scenarios; student locates sources instead of guessing.
SIMULATE	Simulator only if needed to evaluate/repair a scenario that cannot efficiently be recreated in flight.
FLY	Mock checkride flight: preflight, airport operations, takeoffs/landings, navigation, maneuvers, basic instruments, emergencies, postflight.

ADVANCE WHEN: Any deficiency is specifically identified and converted into a focused correction plan.

F21

Checkride Preparation

PHASE 8 | Polish deficiencies, verify paperwork, and arrive rested and prepared.

WATCH	V23 - Checkride Prep / Oral Example.
READ	Private Pilot ACS; applicant knowledge-test report; IACRA/application documents; endorsements; aircraft maintenance records; POH/AFM; current charts/weather/NOTAMs.
GROUND REVIEW AS NEEDED	ACS ALIGNMENT Applicable Private Pilot ASEL Areas of Operation based on mock-checkride and knowledge-test deficiencies. Correct mock deficiencies; verify eligibility, logbook, endorsements, IACRA, aircraft documents, maintenance status, cross-country assignment, and oral weak areas.
SIMULATE	Only targeted practice. Avoid creating fatigue or new habits immediately before the practical test.
MINIMUM TIME	At least 3.0 hours of flight training with an authorized instructor in a single-engine airplane in preparation for the practical test. These 3.0 hours must be completed within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test (14 CFR 61.109(a)(4)). This block may be spread across multiple proficiency flights.
FLY	Focused checkride-preparation flights correcting mock-checkride deficiencies and building repeatable ACS-level performance. Instructor input becomes minimal; emphasis is PIC authority, consistency, and safe decisions.

ADVANCE WHEN: Applicant meets endorsement requirements, demonstrates consistent ACS-level performance, and is prepared to explain decisions using current primary sources.

VIDEO LIBRARY

Chronological Watch List - Part 1

Clickable reference list. Video assignments are supplements; FAA publications, current regulations, and the aircraft POH/AFM remain the primary sources.

HOW VIDEOS WERE SELECTED

Selections favor clear instruction, strong student usefulness, and established/high-viewership training content. A lower-viewership aircraft-specific video may be retained when it better matches the PA-28 training environment. View counts and availability change over time, so links should be reviewed periodically.

ID	FLIGHT	VIDEO / CREATOR	USE
V01	F01	Piper Archer TX Preflight Thrust Flight	Aircraft-specific visual walk-around; use the assigned aircraft checklist/POH as controlling guidance.
V02	F01	V Speeds Private Pilot Knowledge Test Prep FlightInsight	Good early overview before learning aircraft-specific speeds.
V03	F02/F10	SECRET TO STEEP TURNS PERFECTION Free Pilot Training	Popular visual explanation of steep-turn technique and sight picture.
V04	F03/F10	How to Master Slow Flight MzeroA Flight Training	Clear reinforcement before slow-flight practice.
V05	F03/F10	How to Perform Power-Off Stalls Sporty's	Useful maneuver demonstration before FAA reading and ground.
V06	F03	S Turns Across a Road MzeroA Flight Training	Wind correction and ground-reference visualization.
V07	F03	Turns Around a Point MzeroA Flight Training	Visualizes changing wind correction around a constant-radius reference.
V08	F04/F13	How To Fly A Standard Traffic Pattern MzeroA Flight Training	Pattern sequencing, spacing, and workload.
V09	F04/F05/F13	3 Tips To Improve Your Landings MzeroA Flight Training	One of the channel's popular landing videos; useful for repeated review during pattern phase.
V10	F05	How to Execute a Proper Go Around Flight Training Guide	Piper Cherokee demonstration of stabilized approach and go-around.
V11	F06	Gusty Crosswind Landings MzeroA Flight Training	Strong visual explanation of crosswind control and landing technique; reinforce aircraft-specific limitations and instructor technique.
V12	F07/F10	What to Do if Your Engine DIES in a Cessna 172 (ENGINE FAILURE in FLIGHT) Free Pilot Training	High-viewership emergency concept video; translate procedures to the assigned aircraft POH/checklist.
V13	F08	Simple Steps to Perfect Your Short Field Takeoff and Landing MzeroA Flight Training	Short-field technique and energy management.
V14	F08	How to take off and land from grass runways Sporty's	Soft-field concept and runway-surface considerations.

VIDEO LIBRARY

Chronological Watch List - Part 2

Continue in syllabus order. Use targeted review rather than binge-watching material that is not tied to the next lesson.

ID	FLIGHT	VIDEO / CREATOR	USE
V15	F11/F17	Airspace Private Pilot Knowledge Test Prep FlightInsight	Clear overview of Classes A-G before reading PHAK Ch. 15 and working local sectional scenarios.
V16	F11/F15/F17	Breaking the WEATHER CODE! (PPL Lesson 40) Free Pilot Training	High-viewership weather decoding review; pair with current FAA weather material because weather products evolve.
V17	F11/F15	You WILL Understand VORs after Watching This! (PPL Lesson 37) Free Pilot Training	Very high-viewership VOR explanation; strong pre-read visual for PHAK Ch. 16.
V18	F14	Night Flying - Everything You Need To Know Pilot Institute Airplanes	Modern overview of night risks and procedures before AFH/PHAK reading.
V19	F15/F16	Cross Country Flight Planning Step by Step Nav Log Example Part 1 FlightInsight	Popular full nav-log walkthrough; good bridge from charts to the first dual XC.
V20	F15/F16	Student Pilot's Guide to Cross-Country Flight Planning with an iPad Sporty's	Shows how ForeFlight can support - not replace - manual understanding.
V21	F16	How to Land at a Towered Airport Class D Arrival FlightInsight	Useful before a cross-country to an unfamiliar towered airport.
V22	F20	REAL Student Takes Mock Checkride for Private Pilot Mock checkride / examiner-led	Lets the applicant see how scenario questions unfold and how a real student responds under pressure.
V23	F21	Private Pilot Checkride Prep - Oral Exam King Schools / DPE example	Example oral structure and source-based discussion before the practical test.

INSTRUCTOR VIDEO REVIEW STANDARD

- Videos are reviewed for training usefulness, current relevance, and consistency with FAA guidance before assignment.
- The video never overrides the POH/AFM, current regulation, AIM, ACS, or instructor direction.
- When a creator demonstrates a different aircraft, configuration, checklist, or local procedure, the student is expected to identify that difference during ground discussion.
- Video links and popularity can change. The library should be reviewed at least periodically and replaced when a better current resource exists.

REFERENCES

Primary Source Index

Use the source, not the memory aid, whenever a question affects legality, aircraft limitations, or safety.

SOURCE	EDITION	LINK
Private Pilot Airplane ACS	FAA-S-ACS-6C	Open source
Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge	FAA-H-8083-25C + current addenda	Open source
Airplane Flying Handbook	FAA-H-8083-3C	Open source
Aviation Weather Handbook	FAA-H-8083-28B	Open source
Aeronautical Information Manual	Current edition	Open source
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations	Current 14 CFR	Open source

FINAL REMINDER

This syllabus is a structured roadmap for independent Part 61 flight instruction. Required aeronautical experience may be accumulated across multiple lessons; actual completion is tracked in the separate Progress & Evaluation Guide. Lesson order, repetition, endorsements, and advancement remain subject to instructor judgment, aircraft limitations, weather, student readiness, and current FAA requirements.

STUDENT PLANNING

Training Planner

Use this page to plan upcoming lessons and assignments. Make additional copies as needed throughout training.

STUDENT		WEEK OF	
CURRENT PHASE		WEEKLY GOAL	

PLANNING ENTRY 1	DATE: _____
CURRENT PHASE / FLIGHT BLOCK	_____
WATCH / READ ASSIGNMENT	_____
GROUND / SIMULATOR PREP	_____
NEXT FLIGHT GOAL / QUESTIONS	_____ _____ _____

PLANNING ENTRY 2	DATE: _____
CURRENT PHASE / FLIGHT BLOCK	_____
WATCH / READ ASSIGNMENT	_____
GROUND / SIMULATOR PREP	_____
NEXT FLIGHT GOAL / QUESTIONS	_____ _____ _____

PLANNING ENTRY 3	DATE: _____
CURRENT PHASE / FLIGHT BLOCK	_____
WATCH / READ ASSIGNMENT	_____
GROUND / SIMULATOR PREP	_____
NEXT FLIGHT GOAL / QUESTIONS	_____ _____ _____

PLANNING NOTE: This page is a planning aid, not an endorsement record. Required endorsements and training records remain in the student logbook and instructor records.