

PRIVATE PILOT PROGRESS & EVALUATION GUIDE

AIRPLANE SINGLE-ENGINE LAND | PART 61

Training record, stage checks, and aeronautical experience tracking.

TRACK Record the work	EVALUATE Measure proficiency	ADVANCE Move when ready
COMPANION DOCUMENT Use this guide with the Flight Level Dreams Private Pilot Training Syllabus. The syllabus explains what to study and practice; this guide records what was completed and whether the student is ready to advance.		
STUDENT NAME _____		START DATE _____
HOME AIRPORT _____		PRIMARY AIRCRAFT _____
INSTRUCTOR _____		PHONE / EMAIL _____
MEDICAL / BASICMED _____		STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATE _____

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USING THIS GUIDE

Progress Standards & Recordkeeping

A proficiency-based record designed for variable training pace and repeat lessons.

IMPORTANT | Lesson counts are planning blocks, not guarantees. Repeat, combine, or divide lessons as needed. Advancement is based on safe, repeatable performance and judgment - not simply accumulating hours.

PROFICIENCY SCALE

CODE	I - INTRODUCED	D - DEVELOPING	S - SATISFACTORY	P - PROFICIENT
	Instructor demonstration or significant assistance.	Performs with coaching; consistency is still developing.	Safe and acceptable for the current phase with minor coaching.	Consistent, independent performance at the required phase/ACS standard.

HOW TO RATE | Use the rating that best describes the student at the end of the lesson or evaluation. Ratings are relative to the current phase standard. During final ACS integration and mock-checkride work, P should mean independent performance within the current ACS.

RECORDKEEPING RULES

- ☐ Enter every flight, ground, and simulator/chair-flying session in the applicable phase lesson log.
- ☐ Use the skill table to record the student's current level. Not every item must be graded on every flight.
- ☐ At a stage gate, mark **READY TO ADVANCE** only when the student demonstrates safe judgment and the required phase proficiency.
- ☐ Official logbook entries, endorsements, and instructor records remain the controlling training records. This guide does not replace them.

GENERAL TRAINING NOTES

TRAINING SUMMARY

Part 61 Aeronautical Experience Tracker

Use this page as a running summary. Verify official time from the student logbook before endorsements or practical-test recommendation.

REQUIREMENT	MINIMUM	ACTUAL / COMPLETE	CFI
Total flight time	40.0 hr		
Flight training with authorized instructor	20.0 hr		
Cross-country flight training - single-engine airplane	3.0 hr		
Night flight training - single-engine airplane	3.0 hr		
Night cross-country flight	>100 NM total		
Night takeoffs and full-stop landings	10 / 10		
Solely by reference to instruments	3.0 hr		
Practical-test preparation within preceding 2 calendar months	3.0 hr		
Solo flight time - single-engine airplane	10.0 hr		
Solo cross-country time	5.0 hr		
Long solo cross-country	150 NM total / 3 full-stop points / one leg >50 NM		
Full-stop takeoffs and landings at operating control tower	3 / 3		

REFERENCE | 14 CFR § 61.109(a). These are federal minimums for an airplane single-engine private pilot applicant; actual training time is commonly higher and remains proficiency-driven.

KNOWLEDGE & APPLICATION MILESTONES

MILESTONE	DATE	STATUS / SCORE	CFI
Medical qualification confirmed before solo			
Student pilot certificate received before solo			
Pre-solo knowledge test completed and corrected			
FAA Private Pilot Airplane knowledge test passed			
Knowledge-test deficiencies reviewed			
IACRA application / practical-test paperwork ready			

PHASE 1

Fundamentals & Principles of Flight

Establish safe habits, basic aircraft control, and the aerodynamic foundation for all later maneuvers.

BLOCKS	F01 Fundamentals / First Training Flight F02 Principles of Flight & Basic Maneuvers
ACS	Areas I-II, V, VIII, XII as applicable
PHASE STANDARD Student follows checklist flow, maintains basic aircraft control, uses trim and coordination, and begins performing maneuvers with an organized setup and recovery.	

LESSON LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Preflight inspection / aircraft familiarization			
Positive exchange of controls / cockpit discipline			
Taxi, runup, and checklist usage			
Straight-and-level flight			
Climbs and descents			
Turns and coordination			
Trim / pitch-power relationship			
Steep-turn setup and recovery			
Clearing procedures / division of attention			
Basic instrument scan introduced as appropriate			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

READY TO ADVANCE	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

PHASE 2

Slow Flight, Stalls & Ground Reference

Develop angle-of-attack awareness, stall recognition/recovery, and wind-correction judgment.

BLOCKS	F03 Slow Flight / Stalls / Ground Reference
ACS	Areas V and VII
PHASE STANDARD Student recognizes changing control effectiveness, uses coordinated stall recovery, and corrects for wind to maintain the desired ground track.	

LESSON LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Clearing / maneuver setup			
Slow flight - entry, control, and recovery			
Power-off stall recognition and recovery			
Power-on stall recognition and recovery			
Stall / spin awareness and prevention			
Rectangular course			
S-turns across a road			
Turns around a point			
Wind-drift correction / ground-track planning			
Coordination and rudder use			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES

READY TO ADVANCE	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

PHASE 3

Takeoffs, Landings & Traffic Pattern Development

Build repeatable pattern control, landing judgment, wind correction, and go-around discipline.

BLOCKS	F04 Pattern Fundamentals F05 Landing Consistency / Go-Arounds F06 Crosswind / Forward Slip F07 Emergency Pattern F08 Short-Field / Soft-Field Introduction
ACS	Areas III-IV and IX
PHASE STANDARD Student flies an organized pattern, maintains appropriate airspeeds, makes timely go-around decisions, and applies correct control inputs for wind and runway conditions.	

LESSON LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Taxi / wind correction / runway incursion avoidance			
Traffic-pattern entry, spacing, and radio communication			
Normal takeoff and climb			
Normal approach and landing			
Crosswind takeoff and landing			
Stabilized approach judgment			
Go-around / rejected landing			
Forward slip to landing			
Simulated engine-out pattern / emergency approach			
Short-field takeoff and landing			
Soft-field takeoff and landing			
Checklist use without prompting			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

READY FOR F09 EVAL	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

STAGE GATE

F09 - Takeoff & Landing Evaluation

Confirm that traffic-pattern operations are becoming independent before moving deeper into solo preparation.

EVALUATION STANDARD | Student should demonstrate safe, repeatable takeoff, pattern, approach, landing, go-around, communication, and checklist performance with minimal instructor intervention. Use current conditions and aircraft limitations; do not force a maneuver that is not appropriate for the day.

EVALUATION FLIGHT LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI
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SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
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Ground procedures and runway-incursion avoidance

ATC / CTAF communication

Takeoff directional control and wind correction

Traffic-pattern altitude, airspeed, spacing, and coordination

Stabilized approach recognition

Landing alignment, centerline control, and wind correction

Go-around decision and execution

Simulated engine-out / power-off landing judgment

Forward slip when appropriate

Checklist discipline and situational awareness

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

PROGRAM CHECKPOINT

- ☐ At least 3 takeoff / landing cycles observed when conditions permit
- ☐ Student makes unprompted go-around decisions when an approach is not stabilized
- ☐ Student can explain when a landing should be discontinued rather than salvaged

EVALUATOR COMMENTS / RETRAINING

EVALUATION RESULT	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

PHASE 4

Solo Preparation

Bring maneuver proficiency, emergency judgment, airspace/weather knowledge, and aircraft-system awareness together before the pre-solo evaluation.

BLOCKS	F10 Solo Prep - Maneuvers & Emergencies F11 Solo Prep - Airspace, Weather, Systems & Instruments
ACS	Areas I, III-V, VII-IX
PHASE STANDARD Student demonstrates the required pre-solo maneuvers and procedures safely in the make/model, makes conservative decisions, and can explain the aircraft and local operating environment.	

LESSON LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

§ 61.87(d) PRE-SOLO FLIGHT TRAINING CHECK

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Flight preparation, preflight planning, powerplant operation, and aircraft systems | ☐ Taxi / runup / surface operations |
| ☐ Normal and crosswind takeoffs and landings | ☐ Straight-and-level flight and turns |
| ☐ Climbs and climbing turns | ☐ Traffic patterns, entry, and departure procedures |
| ☐ Collision avoidance, windshear avoidance, and wake turbulence avoidance | ☐ Descents with and without turns using high- and low-drag configurations |
| ☐ Flight at airspeeds from cruise to slow flight | ☐ Stall entries / recoveries required by §61.87(d) |
| ☐ Emergency procedures and equipment malfunctions | ☐ Ground reference maneuvers |
| ☐ Approaches to landing with simulated engine malfunction | ☐ Slips to a landing |
| ☐ Go-arounds | |

USE | Check an item only after it has been trained and logged. The student must demonstrate satisfactory proficiency and safety before solo authorization.

SOLO PREP KNOWLEDGE / SYSTEMS

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Local airspace / operating limitations			
Weather interpretation and solo go-no-go judgment			
Aircraft systems / limitations / abnormal indications			
VOR / navigation-system use as applicable			
Basic instrument control / unusual-attitude recovery			
Emergency checklist use and memory-item discipline			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

F12 - Pre-Solo Evaluation

Determine whether the student can safely operate the airplane without instructor intervention.

☐ Student pilot certificate available	☐ Medical / permitted medical qualification current as applicable
☐ Pre-solo knowledge test administered	☐ All incorrect pre-solo test answers reviewed
☐ Required §61.87 flight training logged	☐ Make/model proficiency confirmed
☐ Solo limitations and local procedures briefed	☐ Aircraft documents / airworthiness status reviewed
☐ Weather and wind within instructor-established solo limits	☐ Required solo endorsement entered in logbook

DATE	_____	RESULT	SATISFACTORY ☐
INCORRECT ANSWERS REVIEWED	YES ☐	CFI INITIALS	_____
SOLO AIRPORT / LOCAL AREA	_____	MAKE / MODEL	_____

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Independent checklist / ground procedures			
Communications and traffic awareness			
Takeoff and pattern control			
Approach stability and landing judgment			
Crosswind correction			
Go-around decision making			
Emergency response / simulated engine failure			
Slow flight / stall proficiency			
Ground reference maneuver proficiency			
Aircraft-system / limitation knowledge			
Weather / airspace / go-no-go judgment			
PIC mindset and conservative decision making			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

READY FOR SOLO		YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR			INITIALS	

PHASE 5

F13 - Solo Traffic Pattern

Build independent confidence while keeping the operation tightly controlled and instructor-supervised.

SOLO CONTROL | Solo flights occur only within the instructor's current endorsements and limitations. The instructor should verify weather, aircraft status, airport/runway conditions, student readiness, and endorsement currency before release.

SOLO FLIGHT LOG

DATE	AIRCRAFT	SOLO TIME	T/O	LDG	CONDITIONS / LIMIT	CFI RELEASE

SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Preflight / aircraft acceptance			
Taxi and runway awareness			
Radio communication			
Takeoff and climb			
Traffic-pattern spacing and altitude			
Approach stability			
Landing / centerline control			
Go-around judgment			
Checklist discipline			
Postflight / discrepancy reporting			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

SOLO PHASE STATUS	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

F14 - Night Operations

BLOCKS		F14 Night Operations	
ACS		Area XI plus applicable I, III, IV, VI and IX	
PHASE STANDARD Student safely manages night preparation, lighting, illusions, navigation, takeoffs/landings, and emergency considerations.			
REQUIREMENT	MINIMUM	ACTUAL / COMPLETE	CFI
Night flight training - single-engine airplane	3.0 hr		
Night cross-country flight	>100 NM total		
Night takeoffs and full-stop landings	10 / 10		

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SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Night preflight / lighting management			
Night vision and illusion awareness			
Taxi and airport lighting interpretation			
Night takeoff and climb			
Night navigation / position awareness			
Night approach and landing			
Full-stop landing consistency			
Night go-around			
Night emergency / off-airport considerations			
Weather and personal-minimum judgment			

NIGHT COMPLETE	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	_____
INSTRUCTOR	_____	INITIALS	_____

PHASE 7

F15-F16 - Dual Cross-Country

Transfer planning, weather, navigation, communication, and diversion skills into real cross-country decision making.

BLOCKS	F15 Dual Cross-Country 1 F16 Dual Cross-Country 2
ACS	Areas I, III-IV, VI, VIII-IX, XII
PHASE STANDARD Student plans and conducts the flight with decreasing instructor intervention, while maintaining situational awareness and making conservative in-flight decisions.	

DUAL CROSS-COUNTRY LOG

DATE	BLOCK / ROUTE	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI
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§ 61.93(e) CROSS-COUNTRY TRAINING CHECK

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Aeronautical charts, pilotage, dead reckoning, and magnetic compass use | ☐ Aircraft performance charts for cross-country planning |
| ☐ Weather reports/forecasts and recognition of critical weather | ☐ Emergency procedures |
| ☐ Departure, arrival, pattern entry, and approach procedures | ☐ Collision avoidance, wake turbulence, and windshear avoidance |
| ☐ Hazardous terrain recognition / avoidance as applicable | ☐ Installed instrument and equipment operation |
| ☐ Radio navigation and two-way communication | ☐ Short-field, soft-field, and crosswind takeoff/landing procedures |
| ☐ Best-angle and best-rate climbs | ☐ Control and maneuvering solely by reference to instruments |

DUAL XC PROFICIENCY

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Preflight planning / nav log accuracy			
Weather briefing and go-no-go decision			
Pilotage / dead reckoning / course control			
ATC / CTAF communication			
Fuel and time management			
Diversion / lost procedures			
Emergency / precautionary decision making			
Arrival, pattern entry, and landing at unfamiliar airport			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

READY FOR F17 EVAL	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

STAGE GATE

F17 - Solo Cross-Country Evaluation

Confirm that the student can plan, evaluate, and safely conduct a solo cross-country before route-specific authorization.

SKILL EVALUATION

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Complete and accurate route / nav-log planning			
Weather analysis and go/no-go decision			
Airspace / NOTAM / TFR review			
Weight and balance / performance calculations			
Fuel planning and reserve management			
Airport / runway / alternates review			
Pilotage / dead reckoning / GPS / VOR use as applicable			
ATC / CTAF communication and flight following			
Diversion and lost-procedure decision making			
Emergency / precautionary planning			
Traffic-pattern entry and landing at unfamiliar airports			
PIC authority, workload management, and conservative judgment			

Rating is relative to the current phase standard.

§ 61.93 RELEASE ITEMS

☐ Solo endorsement current for make/model	☐ Solo cross-country category endorsement completed
☐ Solo cross-country make/model endorsement completed	☐ Route-specific planning reviewed for the intended flight
☐ Current/forecast weather reviewed and acceptable	☐ Instructor limitations for the flight are met

EVALUATOR COMMENTS / DEFICIENCIES

READY FOR SOLO XC	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

PHASE 8

F18 - Solo Cross-Country

Track each authorized solo cross-country and the required §61.109(a) experience.

SOLO CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT LOG

DATE	ROUTE	XC TIME	DIST	FULL-STOP POINTS	61.93 REVIEW	CFI

REQUIREMENT	MINIMUM	ACTUAL / COMPLETE	CFI
Solo cross-country time	5.0 hr		
Long solo cross-country	150 NM total		
Full-stop landing points on long solo XC	3 points		
One leg on long solo XC	>50 NM straight-line		
Full-stop takeoffs/landings at operating control tower	3 / 3		

EACH FLIGHT | For each solo cross-country, the instructor review required by §61.93 must be completed as applicable. Use the student logbook for the actual endorsement text.

SOLO XC NOTES

POST-FLIGHT DEBRIEF

ACTUAL FUEL USED		ETA / TIME VARIANCE	
WEATHER DIFFERENCES		ROUTE / ALTITUDE CHANGES	
ATC / AIRPORT ISSUES		AIRCRAFT DISCREPANCIES	
BIGGEST LESSON		CFI DEBRIEF	DATE _____ INIT _____

PHASE 9

F19 - ACS Integration Flights

Transition from isolated maneuvers to complete, scenario-based private-pilot performance.

STANDARD | The student should increasingly operate as PIC: prepare the flight, brief the plan, manage risk, make decisions, fly the maneuver, recognize errors, and correct them without waiting for instructor prompts.

ACS AREA PROGRESS

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
I - Preflight Preparation			
II - Preflight Procedures			
III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations			
IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds			
V - Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers			
VI - Navigation			
VII - Slow Flight and Stalls			
VIII - Basic Instrument Maneuvers			
IX - Emergency Operations			
X - Multiengine Operations - N/A for ASEL			
XI - Night Operations			
XII - Postflight Procedures			

Use P only when the applicant can perform independently at the current ACS standard, with sound risk management and judgment.

INTEGRATION FLIGHT LOG

DATE	BLOCK	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

REMAINING WEAK AREAS

READY FOR MOCK	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

STAGE GATE

F20 - Mock Private Pilot Checkride

Conduct the oral and flight as close as practical to a real practical-test sequence, with minimal coaching and clear deficiency tracking.

ACS AREA	ORAL	FLIGHT	CFI
I - Preflight Preparation	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
II - Preflight Procedures	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
III - Airport and Seaplane Base Operations	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
IV - Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
V - Performance Maneuvers and Ground Reference Maneuvers	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
VI - Navigation	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
VII - Slow Flight and Stalls	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
VIII - Basic Instrument Maneuvers	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
IX - Emergency Operations	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
X - Multiengine Operations - N/A for ASEL	N/A	N/A	
XI - Night Operations	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	
XII - Postflight Procedures	S ☐ C ☐	S ☐ C ☐	

KEY | S = satisfactory for mock-checkride purposes. C = continue training. A mock result is an instructional evaluation and is not an FAA practical-test result.

DEFICIENCIES / RETRAINING PLAN

MOCK RESULT	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

PHASE 10

F21 - Checkride Preparation & Practical-Test Readiness

Correct mock-checkride deficiencies, complete the required recent preparation, and verify the applicant and aircraft are ready.

REQUIREMENT	MINIMUM	ACTUAL / COMPLETE	CFI
Practical-test preparation with authorized instructor	3.0 hr		
Timing of the 3.0 hr preparation	Within preceding 2 calendar months		

PRACTICAL-TEST READINESS CHECK

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ FAA knowledge test passed and report available | ☐ Knowledge-test deficiencies reviewed with instructor |
| ☐ Aeronautical knowledge / home-study or ground training complete | ☐ §61.109 aeronautical experience verified from logbook |
| ☐ Required training in §61.107 areas of operation logged | ☐ Practical-test preparation training completed within required period |
| ☐ Instructor practical-test endorsement completed as applicable under §61.39 | ☐ IACRA / application completed and signed |
| ☐ Applicant identification and required pilot / medical documents ready | ☐ Logbook endorsements reviewed for completeness |
| ☐ Current ACS reviewed; weak areas corrected | ☐ Aircraft documents / inspections / required equipment verified |
| ☐ Aircraft POH/AFM, supplements, W&B, and performance data ready | ☐ Cross-country assignment / nav log / weather briefing ready when applicable |
| ☐ DPE / practical-test date and logistics confirmed | |

FINAL PROFICIENCY

SKILL / TASK	RATING	DATE	CFI
Knowledge / oral readiness			
Preflight preparation and aircraft records			
Normal / crosswind takeoff and landing			
Short-field takeoff and landing			
Soft-field takeoff and landing			
Steep turns / ground reference			
Slow flight / stalls			
Navigation / diversion / lost procedures			
Basic instrument maneuvers			
Emergency operations			
Night knowledge / operations			
PIC authority / judgment / risk management			

Final recommendation should be based on consistent, independent performance - not a single good flight.

FINAL INSTRUCTOR NOTES

READY FOR PRACTICAL TEST	YES ☐ CONTINUE ☐	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR		INITIALS	

CONTINUATION

Reusable Lesson Log & Notes

Each phase log provides space for at least 8 flights. Make additional copies of this page as needed for repeat lessons, weather delays, extra proficiency work, or training outside the planned blocks.

LESSON LOG

DATE	BLOCK / ROUTE	DUAL	SOLO	GROUND	SIM	RESULT	CFI

CONTINUATION NOTES / ASSIGNED CORRECTIONS

RECORD NOTE | This guide is a progress and evaluation aid. Required logbook entries, endorsements, and instructor records must still be made separately in accordance with applicable regulations.

REGULATORY REFERENCES: 14 CFR §§ 61.39, 61.87, 61.93, 61.103, 61.105, 61.107, 61.109; current FAA Private Pilot for Airplane Category ACS (FAA-S-ACS-6C). Verify current regulations and FAA publications before use.