

WHAT YOU NEED TO START FLIGHT TRAINING

FLIGHTLEVELDREAMS | BY ENRIQUE GONZALEZ, CFI

CHECK OFF EACH ITEM AS IT IS COMPLETED	
MEDICAL - COMPLETE THIS EARLY ☐ Create an FAA MedXPress account and schedule an examination with an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) before making a major investment in training. ☐ Private-pilot goal: obtain at least a third-class medical. A student may begin dual instruction first, but the medical is required before solo. ☐ Career goal: apply for a first-class medical early to confirm you can meet the standard required for airline transport pilot privileges. ☐ Gather any records requested for medical history, medications, vision, or prior conditions before the AME appointment.	IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS ☐ Government-issued photo ID ready for training and FAA applications. ☐ Citizenship or training-eligibility documents provided to the instructor or aircraft provider as required. Complete FTSP requirements first when applicable. ☐ Create an IACRA account and apply for a student pilot certificate before solo. ☐ Purchase a paper or electronic logbook and record every lesson and endorsement from day one.
PERSONAL FLIGHT GEAR	
CORE ITEMS ☐ Personal aviation headset compatible with the aircraft you will fly. The student is responsible for obtaining a headset. ☐ Kneeboard or compact notebook, plus at least two pens or pencils. ☐ Non-polarized sunglasses, closed-toe shoes, water, and weather-appropriate clothing. ☐ Compact flashlight with white and red modes, plus spare batteries. ☐ Small flight bag that keeps documents, cables, and equipment organized.	AIRCRAFT AND PLANNING ITEMS ☐ Correct POH/AFM, supplements, and checklist for the aircraft used in training. ☐ Electronic E6B such as the ASA CX-3 or comparable unit. No mechanical whiz wheel needed. ☐ Navigation plotter for sectional-chart course and distance measurements. ☐ Current chart access and flight-planning forms for cross-country work. ☐ Renter's insurance, club documents, or aircraft-provider requirements completed when applicable.
ELECTRONICS AND APPS	
IPAD AND FOREFLIGHT ☐ Cellular-capable iPad mini preferred for cockpit size and onboard GPS capability. ☐ ForeFlight installed with a current subscription and current chart/data downloads. ☐ Protective case and aircraft-appropriate mount or kneeboard selected after confirming cockpit fit. ☐ Charging cable and backup battery packed and charged before each lesson.	WRITTEN TEST PREP ☐ Sporty's Study Buddy installed for FAA knowledge-test question practice. ☐ Complete assigned ground lessons and review missed questions for understanding, not memorization only. ☐ Complete practice exams and review readiness with the instructor before scheduling the FAA knowledge test. ☐ Save the knowledge-test report after passing; it will be required for the practical-test application.
BEFORE THE FIRST SOLO ☐ Student pilot certificate received, medical certificate valid, and required identification available. ☐ Pre-solo knowledge test completed and corrected with the instructor. ☐ Required training, logbook endorsements, aircraft checkout, and local procedures completed. ☐ All equipment above is labeled, charged, current, and ready for use.	
STUDENT TRACKING	
STUDENT NAME: _____	FIRST LESSON: _____
AME APPOINTMENT: _____	MEDICAL CLASS: ☐ 1ST ☐ 3RD
IACRA / FTN: _____	STUDENT CERTIFICATE: ☐ APPLIED ☐ RECEIVED