



"If you aren't having fun, you're doing it wrong."

This guide provides a transparent, step-by-step roadmap to earning your wings.

1. The FAA Medical Certificate

Think of this as a routine doctor's visit. **Which class?** **Third Class** for hobbyists; **First Class** for career pilots.

Regarding the process: **"I've made all the mistakes so you don't have to."** Whether it involves past history or SSRIs, the FAA is now more collaborative. It is a process, but it is achievable.

- Step 1: Fill out an application at <https://medxpress.faa.gov/>. **Save the application ID Number at the end!**
- Step 2: Schedule your medical exam with one of 2 DPE's in the Coachella Valley.
 - Dr. Daniel S. Cosgrove, M.D. - <https://wellmax.com/faa-medical/>
 - Dr. William R. Page, M.D. - <http://desertflightphysicals.com/>

The New MOSAIC Rule: The FAA's new MOSAIC rule is a great update for the aviation community. It expands the types of airplanes that sport pilots can fly and allows private pilots (or those with expired medicals) to continue flying under sport pilot privileges. It provides excellent flexibility to keep you in the air without always needing to renew a medical certificate.

2. Ground School

We utilize **King Schools**, the industry standard.

Get Started: The Private Pilot Kit (\$349) gets you moving immediately.

The "Must-Do": Studying for the written is the bridge between dreaming and doing. Use flight simulators for proficiency. Example: [Real Pilot VFR Flight Lesson | Microsoft Flight Simulator](#)

3. Flight Training at Bermuda Dunes

To make consistent progress, we recommend flying **2–3 times per week**.

The Estimate: We estimate **65 hours** for your Private Pilot License.

True Transparency: Many schools quote \$15k–\$16k but exclude check rides and materials. I believe in total transparency so you know the full scope from day one.

Refer to the attached pricing sheet for a detailed breakdown of rates and syllabus.

Note: These are pricing estimates for personal planning only. Much like any other skill, learning is specific to the individual. [Save money by studying more.](#)

Bermuda Dunes Flight Training

THE STANDARD START (PRIVATE PILOT - CESSNA 172)

Item	Cost
Airplane Rental (65 hours @ \$210/hr)	\$13,650
Flight Instruction (55 hours @ \$75/hr)	\$4,125
Ground School (King School's Online Course)	\$349
The "Starter Kit" (iPad, Bose Headset, ForeFlight)	\$1,499
Knowledge Test (Written Exam)	\$175
Medical Exam	\$150
Final Checkride Fee	\$1,200
PRIVATE PILOT TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$21,148

THE "NEXT LEVEL" PRIVATE PILOT (HYBRID PROGRAM)

Mixing the fleet to keep you moving. Use the 172 for fundamentals and the SR20 for advanced cross-country work.

Item	Cost
Cessna 172 Time (Initial 35 hours + Instruction)	\$9,975
Cirrus SR20 Time (Advanced 30 hours + Instruction)	\$11,850
Ground School (King School's Online Course)	\$349
The "Starter Kit" (iPad, Bose Headset, ForeFlight)	\$1,499
Knowledge Test (Written Exam)	\$175
Medical Exam	\$150
Final Checkride Fee	\$1,200
HYBRID PRIVATE PILOT TOTAL	\$25,198

ADVANCED RATINGS & CAREER PREP

INSTRUMENT RATING (IR)

Based on a realistic 55-hour track using a mix of aircraft and simulator time.

Item	Cost
Cessna 172 Rental (45 hours)	\$9,450
Flight Simulator / ATD (10 hours)	\$8,50
Instrument Instruction (65 hours @ \$80)	\$5,200
Fixed Costs (Ground School, Checkride (\$349, \$1500)	\$1,849
Cirrus TAA Upgrade (Hybrid 22.5h SR20 / 22.5h C172 + Inst Premium)	+\$2,850
TRADITIONAL IR TOTAL	\$17,349
HYBRID TAA IR TOTAL	\$20,199

**Note: I encourage students to use flight simulators to become proficient with avionics packages.*

The jump to the 250-hour requirement for your Commercial License can feel like a long stretch of open sky, but there are ways to bridge that gap. 14 CFR § 61.129(i), the FAA allows you to credit up to 50 hours of qualified flight simulator or training device time toward your total aeronautical experience.

To make the remaining hours more manageable, I always suggest splitting time with fellow students. Acting as a safety pilot for one another isn't just a way to share the cost—it's a way to build a professional network and sharpen your skills through observation. This is your journey, and while the path is long, we are here to guide you through every mile.

COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATE SINGLE-ENGINE (CPL SEL)

Leveraging the TAA Advantage. Our Gen1 Cirrus with dual GI-275s meets the 10-hour complex requirement at this time. Once our G1000 172 has its autopilot fixed, we can use that as well.

Item	Cost
Cirrus SR20 TAA Training (10 hours + Instruction)	\$2,960
Cessna 172 Dual Prep (10 hours + Instruction)	\$2,900
Ground School (King School's Online Course)	\$349
Knowledge Test (Written Exam)	\$175
Checkride Fee	\$2,000
Traditional Commercial Pilot SEL	\$8,384

CIRRUS SR20 CHECKOUT (LET'S GOOOOOO)

Let's take it up a level.

Item	Cost
Cirrus SR20 TAA Training (15 hours + Instruction)	\$5,925
(Optional) Cross-country with Boat Ride in Havasu	\$1,000
TRADITIONAL	\$5,925
w/ Boat Ride	\$6,925