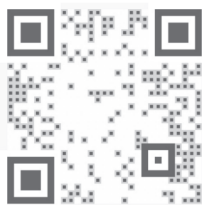




### ➔ HOW TO CHOOSE A FLIGHT SCHOOL

Finding a flight school is the first step towards earning your license. So how to find one? Our flight school database is a good place to start—it shows over 1,000 flight school locations in the US. You can also do a basic search at your favorite internet search engine, or ask other pilots for recommendations.



Scan to view an online  
flight school directory

Once you've located some schools, choosing the right one is one of the most important choices you'll make in training. More than anything, a flight school needs to be a good fit for you—your schedule, your goals and your personality.

Visit flight schools near you. Meet with the staff and tour the facilities and airplanes. Ask any questions you may have about the flight training process, flight

school policies, scheduling, rates and instructors. Your personal opinion counts here. Do the airplanes look clean and well-maintained? Are the instructors friendly and helpful? What is your general feeling about the school as a whole? Details matter and typically, if a flight school cares about the details, you're in for a good experience.

Personal referrals are always a good option. Consider if you are connected to someone who has trained at a specific school and would be willing to recommend the school and/or an instructor.

Flight schools vary from large training facilities to one airplane flight schools with part time instructors. But bigger doesn't always mean better, so look for some signs of a well-run flight school:

- A bricks-and-mortar facility with classrooms, helpful teaching aids, and a supportive learning environment.
- A staff of flight instructors from which to choose.
- An engaged and supportive management structure
- A proven training curriculum.
- A well-maintained fleet of training aircraft.

# WHAT ARE PART 61 AND PART 141 FLIGHT SCHOOLS?

You may hear flight schools talk about “Part 61” and “Part 141” programs. This refers to different parts of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) that set minimum standards for flight training. In general, Part 61 schools are local flight schools that train students on a one-on-one, customized basis, and are not necessarily career-oriented flight academies. Part 141 schools are usually larger, more structured programs, often emphasizing professional pilot training. They may also be associated with a college or university.

No special designation or certification is needed to operate as a flight school. However, a flight school can choose to be certified under FAR Part 141, “Pilot Schools.” In addition to specifying minimum qualifications and requirements for the school’s personnel and facilities, Part 141 provides for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of the school’s training curriculum. The school is subject to FAA inspection and must meet minimum performance levels in terms of preparing students for the FAA flight test.

Certainly, Part 141 certification can be viewed as evidence of at least a minimum standard of quality and performance. However, it does not mean that instruction at a Part 61 school will be inferior. In fact, many Part 141 schools also train students under Part 61 because it allows for greater flexibility in accommodating a part time student’s schedule and pace of learning. Don’t base your decision solely on whether a school is Part 61 or 141.

## VVVV

### Part 61:

- Local flight schools
- Independent CFIs
- One-on-one training
- Customized training
- Standard or flexible curriculum

## VVVV

### Part 141:

- Larger, more structured programs
- Professional pilot training emphasis
- May be associated with college or university
- Meets the minimum qualifications and requirements for personnel and facility
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved training curriculum
- Subject to minimum performance levels for the FAA exam



#### PRO TIP:

Don’t base your decision solely on Part 61 vs. Part 141. Many Part 141 schools also train students under Part 61 because it allows for greater flexibility in accommodating a part time student’s schedule and pace.

