

Instrument-Airplane Rating Requirements

Eligibility – 61.65(a)

- Hold a current private pilot certificate with airplane rating
- Able to read, speak, write, and understand English

Knowledge and Flight Proficiency – 61.65(b) and 61.65(c)

- Pass knowledge test on subjects in 61.65(b)
 - FARs related to IFR
 - AIM sections related to IFR
 - Air traffic control system and procedures
 - IFR navigation and IFR approaches
 - IFR en route and instrument approach charts
 - Procurement and use of aviation weather reports and forecasts
 - Safe and efficient operation of aircraft under IFR
 - Recognition of critical weather situations and windshear avoidance
 - Aeronautical decision making and judgment
 - Crew resource management
- Receive flight training on subjects in 61.65(c)
 - Preflight preparation
 - Preflight procedures
 - Air traffic control clearances and procedures
 - Flight by reference to instruments
 - Navigation systems
 - Instrument approach procedures
 - Emergency operations
 - Postflight procedures
- Pass the practical test

Aeronautical Experience – 61.65(d)

- 50 hours cross-country flight time as PIC
 - 10 hours in airplanes
- 40 hours of actual or simulated instrument time covering instrument rating topics *after* becoming a private pilot
 - 20 hours may be in a flight training device (e.g. AST-300)
 - 10 hours may be in a PC-ATD (e.g. ELITE)
 - 15 hours from an authorized instructor (CFII) related to the instrument rating
 - 3 hours from an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test within 60 days before the test
 - One cross-country of at least 250nm along airways or ATC-directed routing, including an instrument approach at each airport and at least 3 different kinds of approaches using navigation systems