



Instrument Rating
Eligibility
Aeronautical Knowledge
Flight Proficiency
Aeronautical Experience

Vonda Benson, CFII
Take Flight Aviation, LLC

FAR AIM 61.65 (a) Eligibility

(a) General. A **person** who applies for an **instrument rating** must:

- (1)** Hold at least a current private pilot certificate, or be concurrently applying for a private pilot certificate, with an **airplane**, **helicopter**, or **powered-lift rating** appropriate to the **instrument rating** sought;
- (2)** Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language. If the applicant is unable to meet any of these requirements due to a medical condition, the **Administrator** may place such operating limitations on the applicant's pilot certificate as are necessary for the safe operation of the **aircraft**;
- (3)** Receive and log **ground training** from an **authorized instructor** or accomplish a home-study course of training on the aeronautical knowledge areas of **paragraph (b)** of this section that apply to the **instrument rating** sought;
- (4)** Receive a logbook or training record endorsement from an **authorized instructor** certifying that the **person** is prepared to take the required **knowledge test**;
- (5)** Receive and log training on the areas of operation of **paragraph (c)** of this section from an **authorized instructor** in an **aircraft**, **full flight simulator**, or **flight training device** that represents an **airplane**, **helicopter**, or **powered-lift** appropriate to the **instrument rating** sought;
- (6)** Receive a logbook or training record endorsement from an **authorized instructor** certifying that the **person** is prepared to take the required **practical test**;
- (7)** Pass the required **knowledge test** on the aeronautical knowledge areas of **paragraph (b)** of this section; however, an applicant is not required to take another **knowledge test** when that **person** already holds an **instrument rating**; and
- (8)** Pass the required **practical test** on the areas of operation in **paragraph (c)** of this section in -
 - (i)** An **airplane**, **helicopter**, or **powered-lift** appropriate to the **rating** sought; or
 - (ii)** A **full flight simulator** or a **flight training device** appropriate to the **rating** sought and for the specific maneuver or **instrument approach procedure** performed. If an approved **flight training device** is used for the **practical test**, the **instrument approach procedures** conducted in that **flight training device** are limited to one precision and one nonprecision approach, provided the **flight training device** is approved for the procedure performed.



Instrument Rating
Eligibility
Aeronautical Knowledge
Flight Proficiency
Aeronautical Experience

Vonda Benson, CFII
Take Flight Aviation, LLC

FAR AIM 61.65 (b) Aeronautical Knowledge

(b) Aeronautical knowledge. A **person** who applies for an **instrument rating** must have received and logged **ground training** from an **authorized instructor** or accomplished a home-study course on the following aeronautical knowledge areas that apply to the **instrument rating** sought:

- (1)** Federal Aviation Regulations of this chapter that apply to flight operations under **IFR**;
- (2)** Appropriate information that applies to flight operations under **IFR** in the "Aeronautical Information Manual;"
- (3)** **Air traffic control** system and procedures for **instrument** flight operations;
- (4)** **IFR** navigation and approaches by use of navigation systems;
- (5)** Use of **IFR** en route and **instrument approach procedure** charts;
- (6)** Procurement and use of aviation weather reports and forecasts and the elements of forecasting weather trends based on that information and personal observation of weather conditions;
- (7)** Safe and efficient operation of **aircraft** under **instrument** flight rules and conditions;
- (8)** Recognition of critical weather situations and windshear avoidance;
- (9)** Aeronautical decision making and judgment; and
- (10)** Crew resource management, including crew communication and coordination.



Instrument Rating
Eligibility
Aeronautical Knowledge
Flight Proficiency
Aeronautical Experience

Vonda Benson, CFII
Take Flight Aviation, LLC

FAR AIM 61.65 (c) Flight Proficiency

(c) *Flight proficiency.* A [person](#) who applies for an [instrument rating](#) must receive and log training from an [authorized instructor](#) in an [aircraft](#), or in a [full flight simulator](#) or [flight training device](#), in accordance with [paragraph \(g\)](#) of this section, that includes the following areas of operation:

- (1)** Preflight preparation;
- (2)** Preflight procedures;
- (3)** [Air traffic control](#) clearances and procedures;
- (4)** Flight by reference to instruments;
- (5)** Navigation systems;
- (6)** [Instrument approach](#) procedures;
- (7)** Emergency operations; and
- (8)** Postflight procedures.



Instrument Rating
Eligibility
Aeronautical Knowledge
Flight Proficiency
Aeronautical Experience

Vonda Benson, CFII
Take Flight Aviation, LLC

FAR AIM 61.65 (d) Aeronautical Experience

(d) Aeronautical experience for the instrument-airplane rating.

A **person** who applies for an **instrument-airplane rating** must have logged:

- (1)** Except as provided in **paragraph (g)** of this section, 50 hours of cross-country **flight time** as **pilot in command**, of which 10 hours must have been in an **airplane**; and
- (2)** Forty hours of actual or simulated **instrument** time in the areas of operation listed in **paragraph (c)** of this section, of which 15 hours must have been received from an **authorized instructor** who holds an **instrument-airplane rating**, and the **instrument** time includes:
 - (i)** Three hours of **instrument flight training** from an **authorized instructor** in an **airplane** that is appropriate to the **instrument-airplane rating** within 2 calendar months before the date of the **practical test**; and
 - (ii)** **Instrument flight training** on cross country flight procedures, including one cross country flight in an **airplane** with an **authorized instructor**, that is performed under **instrument** flight rules, when a **flight plan** has been filed with an **air traffic control** facility, and that involves -
 - (A)** A flight of 250 nautical miles along airways or by directed routing from an **air traffic control** facility;
 - (B)** An **instrument approach** at each **airport**; and
 - (C)** Three different kinds of approaches with the use of navigation systems.