



Raleigh Executive Jetport
 702 Rod Sullivan Road
 Sanford, North Carolina 27330
 (919) 776-2003
 www.wingsofcarolina.org

Private Pilot License Estimated Costs

How long does it take to learn to fly and how much does it cost? It depends. Qualifying as a pilot is a learning process, and some people will acquire that new skill more quickly than others and some will have more time and energy to devote to the task. One obtains a private pilot certificate when one masters the necessary skills to be a safe pilot.

The FAA requires a minimum of 40 hours of flight experience (20 hours of dual instruction and 20 hours of solo flight) but very few pilots achieve the necessary competence in forty hours. The national average is closer to 75 hours. Most Club pilots average 50 to 60 hours in the course of training. A cost estimate based on the 40-hour minimum would be deceptive and unrealistic. Because we realize that learning to fly is a significant commitment of time and money, we want to provide prospective pilots with a realistic estimate of the actual cost based on our experience of the actual flight time they are likely to require and including the ancillary costs that they will encounter. If difficulties are encountered, especially if a student does not engage in regular training, costs could be higher. We have found estimates on the web ranging from \$5,500 to \$10,500.

The following is an estimate of the total cost of acquiring a Private Pilot Certificate as a member of the Wings of Carolina Flying Club, including Club membership and dues. All costs are paid as encountered. There is no need to pay in advance. These estimates are based on a realistic estimate of **60-hours of flight time** and rates as of **September 2016**.

WINGS OF CAROLINA APPLICATION FEE	\$200
DEPOSIT (refundable).....	\$300
<i>This refundable deposit is an investment in the Club, which is returned to each member when he or she resigns. (Not included in Total below)</i>	
DUES	\$390
<i>Six months @ \$65/month. Dues reduction is available through volunteer effort.</i>	
FLIGHT TIME.....	\$4,200
<i>Sixty (60) hours in a Cessna 152 training aircraft at \$70 an hour. This is a wet rate (includes fuel.) Note: Rate may vary over time due to changes in price of fuel.</i>	
INSTRUCTION	\$1080
<i>Forty (40) hours of ground and flight instruction with Wings of Carolina, FAA-certificated instructor @ \$27 an hour.</i>	
GROUND SCHOOL.....	\$195
<i>Wings of Carolina member rate for our ground school, which includes 45 classroom hours, offered three times per year.</i>	
GROUND SCHOOL MATERIALS	\$160
<i>Includes texts, flight computer, and plotter available at wholesale to students.</i>	
HEADSET	\$100
<i>Aviation headset available through the Wings of Carolina at the Club's cost; A lifetime purchase.</i>	
FAA MEDICAL EXAM required prior to solo flight.....	\$100
FAA KNOWLEDGE TEST	\$150
FAA ORAL AND FLIGHT TEST	\$400
APPROXIMATE TOTAL COST	\$6,975

[For more information on learning to fly, go to our website.](http://wingsofcarolina.org/flight-training/frequently-asked-questions)
(<http://wingsofcarolina.org/flight-training/frequently-asked-questions>)