



**TAKE FLIGHT:
YOUR GUIDE TO BECOMING A PILOT
WITH GREAT BASIN AVIATION**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST STEP OF YOUR AVIATION JOURNEY

At Great Basin Aviation, we provide a comprehensive range of flight training and aviation services to support pilots at every stage of their journey. Whether you're just starting or looking to advance your skills, we have the resources and expertise to help you succeed.

- Private, Instrument, Commercial, & CFI/II Training – From your first lesson to becoming a Certified Flight Instructor, we offer structured training to meet your goals.
- Basic & Advanced Ground School – In-person and online options to help you master the knowledge needed to be a safe, skilled pilot.
- Flight Reviews & Recurrent Training – Stay current and confident with checkouts, endorsements, and refresher training.
- Dedicated, Knowledgeable CFIs – Your instructor will mentor, motivate, and accommodate your training needs while guiding you through every phase of your journey.
- Aircraft Rentals – You'll rent and train in stable, forgiving Cessna aircraft that are meticulously maintained for safety and performance.
- Gift Certificates – Give the gift of flight, perfect for aspiring pilots and aviation enthusiasts!

No matter your aviation ambitions, GBA is here to help you take flight!



WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A PILOT

Becoming a pilot is more than just learning how to fly, it requires dedication, discipline, and trust in the process. Flight training is challenging but incredibly rewarding, and success comes from developing the right mindset and work ethic from day one.

Study Skills & Self-Discipline

Flying is as much about knowledge as it is about skill. You'll need to commit to studying consistently, whether it's understanding aerodynamics, mastering regulations, or memorizing emergency procedures. Strong study habits and time management will make a huge difference in your progress.

- Set aside dedicated study time each day.
- Use multiple learning tools including ground school, online courses, and in-person instruction.
- Ask questions! Your instructors are there to help.
- Prepare before every lesson, this maximizes your time in the aircraft.

Passion & Persistence

Every pilot faces challenges along the way. Bad weather, tough landings, frustrating lessons, it's all part of the journey. The key is to stay motivated and push through. Passion for flying will carry you through the difficult moments and keep you moving forward.

Trust the Process

Flight training is structured for a reason. Some days will feel like major breakthroughs, and others may feel like setbacks. Trust that progress comes with consistency, and rely on your instructor and training plan to guide you. Every pilot before you has faced the same struggles, you're not alone!

Medical Certification & Requirements

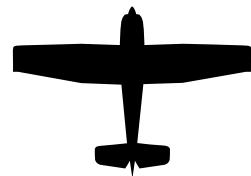
Before beginning flight training, you'll need to obtain an FAA medical certificate. This ensures you meet the essential health and vision requirements to fly safely. It's a good idea to complete this in the beginning to avoid surprises down the road.

At Great Basin Aviation, we're here to guide you through every step of your journey. If you bring the dedication, we'll help you build the skills and confidence to earn your wings. Are you ready to take flight? Let's get started!



THE JOURNEY

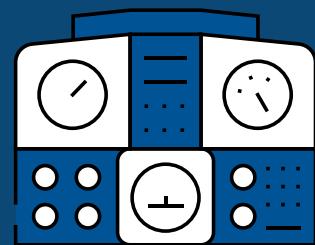
Complete Your Private Pilot Certificate



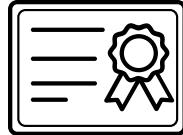
The journey to becoming a pilot starts here. Whether you plan to fly recreationally or continue toward a Commercial Pilot Certificate and a career in aviation, earning your Private Pilot Certificate is the foundation for all future training. Starting in a single-engine aircraft, this stage focuses on mastering the fundamentals of flight, setting the groundwork for more advanced certificates and ratings. To qualify, applicants must be at least 17 years old and able to read, speak, write, and understand English. Additionally, you must complete the FAA-required ground school and flight training to meet all regulatory requirements.

Add Instrument Rating

After earning your Private Pilot Certificate, the next step in advancing your aviation journey is obtaining an Instrument Rating. This certification allows you to fly under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), enhancing your ability to operate safely in low visibility and adverse weather conditions. With an Instrument Rating, you'll gain the precision, confidence, and skill to navigate solely by reference to instruments, opening up new opportunities for cross-country travel and professional advancement.



Complete a Commercial Pilot Certificate



Earning your Commercial Pilot Certificate takes your skills to a higher level of precision and professionalism while meeting specific experience requirements. This certification allows you to legally be paid to fly, opening doors to careers in charter, corporate aviation, flight instruction, and more.

Complete a Flight Instructor Certificate

Becoming a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) lets you share your passion for aviation while training the next generation of pilots. It's also a great way to earn a living flying while building the experience needed for advanced career opportunities. Teaching others strengthens your own skills, making you a more confident and capable pilot.



Gain Experience & Add Advanced Ratings and Endorsements

To fly more advanced aircraft and unlock greater commercial and airline opportunities, pilots must earn advanced ratings and endorsements. These additions to your certificate allow you to operate aircraft with more complex systems and capabilities. Building quality flight experience and expanding your qualifications will set you apart as a well-rounded, career-ready pilot. Every flight brings you one step closer to your ultimate aviation goal.



Reaching Airline Hiring Minimums & Beyond



Upon meeting the requirements for your ATP Certificate, you'll qualify for regional airline pilot jobs and other professional opportunities. From there, continuing to build flight hours will open doors to major airlines and long-term career growth. However, the learning never stops. Aviation is an ever-evolving industry where pilots are regularly tested and expected to stay sharp. Studying, training, and refining your skills will be a lifelong part of your journey—but it's all part of an exciting and rewarding career in the skies! The list of GBA alumni now flying for their careers after earning their ratings with us continues to grow—we want you to be part of it.

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE SKIES



Ready to turn your dream of flying into reality? A Private Pilot Certificate is your ticket to freedom in the skies. Whether you're flying for fun, personal travel, or as the first step in your aviation career, Great Basin Aviation provides structured, high-quality training to get you there.

What Can You Do as a Private Pilot?

- Fly almost anywhere in the U.S. and even internationally (with proper compliance).
- Carry passengers and share operating expenses.
- Fly day or night in various weather conditions (with proper training).
- Experience fewer restrictions than sport or recreational pilots.
- Build a strong foundation for advanced ratings and career opportunities.

Requirements to Get Started:

- Age: 17+
- Language: Must read, speak, write, and understand English
- Medical: Pass an FAA Medical Exam
- Proof of US Citizenship

Training Breakdown (Part 61)

FAA Minimums:

- 40 Hours Total Flight Time (Most students complete around 65 hours)
- 20 Hours Dual Instruction (Including cross-country & night training)
- 10 Hours Solo Flight (Building confidence and proficiency)
- Test Prep Flights to ensure you're ready for your checkride

Private Pilot Certificate – Cost Breakdown

The cost of flight training varies based on individual progress, but below is an estimated breakdown based on national averages and training in a Cessna 172 with 65 flight hours (National Average):

Flight Training Costs

- Aircraft Rental (65 hours x \$185/hr) = \$12,025
- Flight Instruction (45 hours x \$80/hr) = \$3,600
- Ground Instruction (10 hours x \$45/hr) = \$450

Subtotal: \$16,075

Additional Costs

- Ground School (average) = \$300
- FAA Medical Exam (3rd Class) = \$160
- FAA Written Exam = \$175
- FAA Practical Test (Checkride) = \$1000
- Books & Supplies = \$100
- Renter's Insurance (Annual) = \$400

Subtotal: \$2,135

Total Estimated Investment: \$18,210

(Actual costs may vary based on individual training pace and flight time requirements.)

Flexible Payment Options

- Cash, Check, Credit Card, Scholarship, and/or Financing

We'll walk you through every step, from your first flight to your checkride. On average, earning your private pilot's license takes 4-6 months, but it's completely up to you—train at your pace, on your schedule. Whether it's early mornings, late evenings, weekends, or lunch breaks, we work with you to make flight training fit your life.

SMART STRATEGIES TO REDUCE FLIGHT TRAINING COSTS

Learning to fly is an incredible journey, but there's no denying that flight training is a significant investment. The good news? There are ways to reduce costs without sacrificing quality. By taking control of your training and being strategic, you can maximize every dollar spent. Trust the process, every CFI at Great Basin Aviation has been exactly where you are. Follow the plan, stay focused, and you'll get there.

1. Get Ground School Done Early

- Complete your FAA Knowledge Test before you solo to stay ahead and keep lessons relevant.
- Attend study groups and Ground School Supplement Course. Use online resources like YouTube, books, or ask CFIs to clarify tough topics.
- The sooner you complete ground school, the smoother your flight training will be.

2. Be Prepared for Every Flight

- Studying before each lesson will maximize your flight time and minimize costly extra hours.
- Review your syllabus, chair fly, or use a simulator to rehearse maneuvers before takeoff. Order your free cockpit poster from Sporty's!
- If your CFI hasn't outlined what's next, ask them, this is your journey!

3. Fly Consistently

- Piloting skills fade quickly. Flying 2-3 times a week will reduce the time and money spent relearning. Long breaks can add extra hours to training, increasing your overall cost.
- Look into financing options to ensure consistent training without financial roadblocks.

4. Be Efficient on the Ground

- Do as much pre-flight prep as possible before starting the engine (listen to ATIS, set up frequencies, review procedures). Consider a handheld radio to call for clearances before engine start.
- Don't waste time sitting on the ramp with the engine running, every minute counts!

5. Know Your Training Requirements

- Familiarize yourself with FAA requirements for your certificate so you can track progress.
- Ensure all lessons align with the syllabus to prevent unnecessary flights.
- Hold yourself and your CFI accountable, this is your investment!

6. Master Your Checklists & Flow

- Checklists are key! Knowing them well will help you move through training efficiently.
- Practice checklist flows on the simulator or through chair flying to build muscle memory.

7. Apply for Scholarships

- Many organizations offer aviation scholarships that can save you thousands:
 - AOPA, EAA, WAI, NGPA, Ninety-Nines, Reno Air Race Association, and more.
- If you're eligible, apply! A few hours of effort could fund a major part of your training.

Every pilot before you has faced the same challenges, questioned their progress, and had days where it felt impossible, but they made it. You will too. Stick to the plan, trust your instructors, trust yourself, and trust the process. Before you know it, you'll be holding your Private Pilot Certificate, ready for whatever comes next.

STEPS TO BECOMING A PRIVATE PILOT

At Great Basin Aviation, we've helped countless students earn their wings. Trust us, trust the process, we've done this before, and we know what works and we want you to succeed. Following these steps will keep your training efficient, cost-effective, and on track.

Step 1: Take Care of the Essentials (Even Before Your First Flight!)

Before taking full advantage of flight training, knock out the necessary administrative tasks, medical exam, and ground school. Taking care of these upfront will prevent unnecessary delays later.

Schedule Your FAA Medical Exam

- You must hold a valid FAA Medical Certificate to solo.
- Schedule an appointment with an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) as soon as possible

Complete Required Paperwork

- Proof of citizenship (passport or birth certificate) must be on file before your second flight.

Start Ground School Early

- Ground knowledge is just as important as flight skills. Begin studying early to build a solid foundation. Options include in-person, online, or self-paced study materials to best suit your learning style.

Step 2: Begin Flight Training

Once your paperwork, medical, and ground school are underway, it's time to take to the skies!

Schedule Your First Flights

- Your flight training will include dual instruction (with a CFI) and solo flight time as you gain experience and confidence. You'll train in various conditions, airspace types, and scenarios to ensure you develop strong piloting skills.

Set a Training Schedule

- Consistency is key. Plan to fly at least 2-3 times per week to stay on track and retain knowledge between lessons. Balance flight training with ground studies to reinforce what you're learning in the air. Office staff will schedule lessons for the Accelerated Aviation Program.

Prepare for Key Milestones

- First Solo: Your first time flying without an instructor, an unforgettable achievement!
- Cross-Country Flights: Build navigation skills and confidence in longer flights.
- Checkride Prep: Master maneuvers, emergency procedures, and flight planning.

Step 3: Take Your FAA Knowledge Test

Your FAA Knowledge Test is a major step toward earning your Private Pilot Certificate. Don't wait until the last minute, schedule and pass the test before flight training gets more demanding. This should be completed no later than solo cross country. For the Accelerated Aviation Program, the test must be completed prior to the start of training.

Step 4: Checkride Prep & Final Training

The final phase of your training includes mock checkrides, final polishing of skills, and a deep dive into flight planning, regulations, and maneuvers.

- Pass a Stage Check with a Senior Instructor (Simulates your actual checkride!)
- Schedule Your Checkride with a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE)
- Pass the FAA Practical Test (Checkride) and earn your Private Pilot Certificate!



THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR APPROACH

At Great Basin Aviation, we are committed to providing a structured, high-quality flight training experience designed to set you up for success, whether you're pursuing aviation as a hobby or a career. We follow a professional curriculum with a structured syllabus to ensure consistency and efficiency in your training, maximizing your learning while keeping you on track toward your goals. From Cessna's parent company Textron, Great Basin Aviation has received the Top Hawk Award, recognizing us as a leader in aviation education and our commitment to quality. We are the only flight school in Northern Nevada to have earned this distinction.

Our team of instructors and staff bring diverse professional backgrounds to your experience. All have backgrounds in aviation but our team also has backgrounds in military, law enforcement, commercial and private aviation, finance, non-profits, education, and professional development. Some are even aircraft owners themselves. This wealth of experience enhances our instructional approach, instilling discipline, organization, and real-world application into every lesson. We understand what it takes to learn complex skills and apply them in high-stakes environments, and we know how to bring that same level of commitment to your aviation education.

Flight training at Great Basin Aviation delivers an experience you won't find anywhere else. Located at Reno-Tahoe International Airport (KRNO), our program immerses you in Class C airspace from day one, providing real-world exposure to busy, dynamic air traffic environments. You'll gain valuable experience communicating with professional, supportive ATC while flying alongside commercial, military, charter, and general aviation traffic. Our location offers a unique edge: advanced training in the diverse and challenging flying conditions of the western U.S.

We don't just teach you how to pass a checkride; we prepare you to be a safe, competent, and confident pilot. From our well-maintained aircraft to our structured learning environment, we ensure that every student receives top-tier instruction with a strong emphasis on safety, proficiency, and continuous improvement. Aviation is a discipline that requires precision and dedication, and we are here to guide you every step of the way.

At Great Basin Aviation, you're not just renting a plane and an instructor, you're stepping into an environment that prioritizes your growth as an aviator. When you fly with us, you can trust that you are receiving the highest level of education, safety, and professionalism to help you reach your aviation goals. We don't just train you to pass a test. We teach you to experience aviation at the deep level of understanding you deserve.





GREAT BASIN AVIATION'S ACCELERATED AVIATION PROGRAM

At Great Basin Aviation, we understand that when you're serious about an aviation career, every day on the ground is a day not progressing toward your goals. For those eager to build hours and start instructing as soon as possible, we offer an Accelerated Aviation Program designed to move you through your ratings and certificates efficiently. But, let's be honest, this program isn't for everyone. It requires serious commitment, discipline, and focus. If you're 100% dedicated to your aviation career, ready to train full-time, and willing to put in the work, this program is for you.

What You Need to Know Before You Commit:

1. Ground School & Knowledge Tests Must Be Completed Before Flight Training

All knowledge requirements must be met before stepping into the airplane to keep training efficient and avoid unnecessary delays.

- Private Pilot – Ground school and the FAA knowledge test must be completed before flight training begins.
- Instrument Rating – IFR written test, 40 cross-country hours, and 20 simulated instrument hours must be completed before starting Instrument flight training.
- Commercial & CFI – Respective knowledge tests must be completed before beginning flight training in these phases.
- Why? This follows the Law of Primacy: what is learned first is learned best. Having a strong theoretical foundation before hands-on flight training makes you a better, more efficient pilot. Plus, this is how the real world works; every aviation job requires book knowledge before flight training.

2. This Program is a Full-Time Commitment

- If you cannot commit to at least 4-5 training flights per week, this is not the right program for you.
- Time-building flights are structured and intentional, not just about logging hours. Ask us about our Safety Pilot Program to maximize your flight experience.

3. Be Flexible. Weather, Aircraft, and DPE Availability Can Impact Your Timeline

- Aviation is unpredictable. Flexibility is key; if you only want to fly one specific aircraft at the same time every day, you will be delayed. To stay on track, be open to flying any available aircraft in the fleet, at different times, including the simulator.
- While we work hard to keep things moving, those who stay adaptable and proactive will see the best results.

4. This is Not for Casual Flyers

- If your goal is an aviation career, this program is built for you. If you prefer a slower pace or are unsure about instructing, our standard training options are a better fit, you can still train efficiently, just at your own speed.

Final Thoughts: Are You Ready?

This program is for dedicated, career-driven pilots who are ready to commit to intense, structured training. It's not about shortcuts, it's about focused, disciplined training that delivers results. If you're ready to take control of your aviation future and commit to a serious training schedule, reach out to discuss your eligibility and timeline.



MEET YOUR AIRCRAFT



At Great Basin Aviation, you'll train in Northern Nevada's most modern and well-maintained fleet of Cessna 172s, all equipped with 180HP engines and avionics designed to support pilots from first solo to advanced ratings.

We use the Cessna 172 because it's the gold standard in flight training: reliable, forgiving, and incredibly versatile. It provides an ideal learning platform for new pilots while remaining fully capable of supporting advanced maneuvers, instrument work, and complex procedures. The C172's balance of performance, stability, and visibility makes it a trusted choice for flight schools around the world, and our students feel the difference.

Our fleet features a variety of Garmin avionics, including G1000 glass cockpits, GTN 650, GNX 375, and GTX 345 transponders with ADS-B In/Out. Many aircraft are also equipped with KAP 140 autopilot systems, offering real-world experience with both analog and technically advanced systems.

Whether you're learning to navigate with traditional steam gauges or advancing your skills in glass cockpit environments, our fleet is ready to support every stage of your journey. Backed by routine 50- and 100-hour inspections from our expert maintenance team, you'll fly with confidence knowing your aircraft are held to the highest safety standards.



YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS LET'S GET FLYING!

Your Path to the Sky Starts Here

Learning to fly is more than just earning a certificate, it's an adventure, a challenge, and a lifelong skill that will change the way you see the world. Like anything truly worthwhile, it requires dedication, commitment, and passion. But the reward? Absolutely unmatched.

At Great Basin Aviation, we're here to guide you every step of the way. Our structured training, experienced CFIs, and supportive community will ensure you get the most out of your flight training experience. Whether your goal is to fly for fun, travel with ease, or pursue an aviation career, you'll be learning in a dynamic and safe environment designed to help you succeed.

Nervous? Sweaty palms? Pre-flight jitters? We've been there too. Every one of our CFIs started in the same place, learning the same skills, feeling the same doubts. But trust the process, your confidence will grow, and soon, flying will feel as natural as driving a car (but way more fun!). Yes, there will be moments of feeling overwhelmed and frustrated but you're never alone. Your CFI, and the entire GBA team, will support and inspire you through every hurdle. Free study groups and mentorship opportunities ensure you stay on track.

Your journey to becoming a pilot starts with a single step, taking flight. Take the first step and get your Discovery Flight booked today! Whether you're ready to start training or still have questions, we're here to help. Take the leap, trust the process, and let's get you in the air!

We look forward to flying with you!





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