



2021 AOPA ADVANCED RATING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline: February 14, 2021 | 11:59 p.m. (EST)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship applicants* must meet all the following criteria:

1. Current paid member of AOPA at both the time of application and when the scholarship is awarded. Not a member? [Click here](#) to review our membership options.
2. U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident.
3. Meet the minimum age requirement, stated below, for the desired rating or certificate by the application close date. There are no exceptions.
 - Instrument - age 17
 - Commercial - age 18
 - CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) - age 18
 - CFII (Certificated Flight Instructor - Instrument) - age 18
 - MEI (Multi-Engine - Instructor) - age 18
4. Hold a minimum of an FAA Private Pilot Certificate at the time of application.
5. Not have completed the FAA practical test/checkride for the desired additional rating at the time of application.
6. Be either a newly certificated private pilot (within 24 calendar months) or have completed a flight review in accordance with 14CFR 61.56.

** Employees of AOPA and their immediate family members and household members are not eligible to participate in the AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarship program. The term "immediate family members" includes spouses, siblings, children, and grandchildren.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THE WEBSITE SAYS THAT I HAVE TO BE AN AOPA MEMBER TO APPLY. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Yes, you must be a current paid AOPA member in order to apply. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click](#) here to learn more.

I CURRENTLY HOLD A PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE TO FLY GLIDERS, AND I AM NOW WORKING TOWARD MY PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE FOR AIRPLANES. CAN I APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?

No, this scholarship series is reserved for certificated Private Pilots who are seeking to add an advanced rating or certificate. Advanced ratings and certificates for this scholarship program are limited to Instrument, Commercial, CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor), CFII (Certificated Flight Instructor – Instrument), or MEI (Multi-Engine Instructor).

Upon selection as a recipient, you will be required to present a copy of the class of medical required by the FAA to exercise the privileges of the desired rating or certificate, as well as a copy of your Private Pilot Certificate.

HOW DO I FIND THE CERTIFICATE NUMBER ON MY PILOT CERTIFICATE?

If you are a newly certificated pilot, refer to the certificate number located on your Temporary Airman Certificate.

If you have already received your green Private Pilot Certificate card, refer to the front of the card, below your name and personal details.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED MY PILOT CERTIFICATE AND HAVE NOT HAD A FLIGHT REVIEW. AM I STILL ELIGIBLE?

A flight review is required every 24 calendar months. The flight review consists of at least one hour of ground instruction and one hour in-flight with a qualified flight instructor, although completion of any phase of the FAA WINGS program also satisfies the requirement for a flight review.

If you have received your pilot certificate and have not had it longer than 24 calendar months, you likely will not have had a flight review. If this is the case, you may use the date of issuance on your Private Pilot Certificate.

If you have had your certificate for more than 24 calendar months and have not completed your flight review, this may affect the outcome of your application.

For more information on flight reviews, refer to the FAA Code of Federal Regulations [14 CFR 61.56](#).

WHAT ARE THE RECENT FLIGHT EXPERIENCE STANDARDS? DO I HAVE TO MEET THESE CRITERIA?

Recent Flight Experience: Pilot in Command ([14 CFR 61.57](#)) states that, with very few exceptions, no person may act as a pilot in command of an aircraft carrying passengers or of an aircraft certificated for more than one pilot flight crewmember unless that person has made at least three takeoffs and three landings within the preceding 90 days, among other criteria. Read more about these criteria [here](#). You are not required to meet these criteria to apply.

DO I HAVE TO BE ENROLLED IN A COLLEGIATE AVIATION PROGRAM TO APPLY?

No, you are not required to be enrolled in an accredited aviation program or college to apply. However, you must have career aspirations and definitive plans.

CAN I PRINT THE APPLICATION AND MAIL IT IN?

No, paper applications will not be accepted.

IF I WIN ONE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS, HOW DO I GET THE MONEY? DOES IT GO TO MY FLIGHT SCHOOL?

If you are a scholarship recipient, the funds are provided to you directly via a prepaid expense card. You may use the funds to:

- Pay your instructor for services rendered

- Pursue your next desired rating or certificate

HOW DOES THE RECOMMENDATION PROCESS WORK?

On your application you will enter the names and email addresses of two references. Once you submit your application, the system will send each of your references a link to the online recommendation form. Ask your two references to complete the online form by the application deadline (**February 14, 2021, 11:59 EST**).

When a recommendation is submitted on your behalf, you will receive an email confirmation. You can also log into the application system to see if your recommendations have been submitted.

CAN RECOMMENDATIONS BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL?

No, all recommendations must be submitted using the online recommendation link that is provided to your references once you submit your application and enter their email addresses. The link is unique to you and attaches the recommendations to your application.

WHICH TWO PEOPLE SHOULD I HAVE COMPLETE THE ONLINE RECOMMENDATION FORM?

Choose two people who know you well, are familiar with your goal to earn your next rating and can share why you'll successfully complete flight training. The best recommendations will come from your flight and/or ground school instructor, a pilot mentor, or a professional colleague.

We do not recommend having family members complete your recommendations unless they are your CFI or serving as a flight training mentor.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS FOR LATE APPLICATIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS?

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. No exceptions can be made for missing the **application deadline, February 14, 2021, 11:59 p.m., EST**.

Both recommendations must also be completed for your application to be considered. Be sure to give your recommenders plenty of time to complete their forms.

I DIDN'T WIN A SCHOLARSHIP THE LAST TIME I APPLIED. SHOULD I APPLY AGAIN?

Of course! We know there are many outstanding student pilots who would really benefit from a flight training scholarship. Please note all applications are cleared after the scholarship recipients are selected. You must submit a new application and recommendations each award cycle to ensure we're reviewing the most current information.

REMINDER!

BE SURE TO REVIEW THE FAQs BEFORE EMAILING AOPA WITH QUESTIONS.

If your questions have not been answered here, please email FTscholarship@aopa.org.

[**APPLY NOW**](#)
