



2022 AOPA FOUNDATION FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline: February 11, 2022 | 11:59 p.m. (EST)

**Scholarship dollar amounts are subject to change without notice based on verified funding levels. The scholarship dollar amounts listed should only be used as an estimate.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - GENERAL APPLICATION

The website says that I have to be an AOPA member to apply. How do I become a member?

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click](#) to learn about our free six-month student membership or review our membership options [here](#).

When can I apply?

The scholarship application will open from **November 1, 2021 to February 11, 2022 at 11:59 (EST)**.

Please note: If you previously applied, you must complete a new general application each year.

How do I apply?

1. To access the General Application, click "Sign In" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. If you don't currently have an account, please create a username and password to log in. Your AOPA credentials will not grant you access to Academic Works. We recommend that you sign in using any newer browser (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Apple Safari) for optimal compatibility.
2. After you have completed your General Application, the system will automatically match you to all eligible scholarships based on the information you provided. If you are eligible for two scholarships, please be sure to complete both conditional applications to be considered for both scholarships, although not required. *Two recommendations are required for each scholarship.
3. While Academic Works matches you to scholarships you may be eligible for, keep in mind that you may be required to provide more information dependent on the scholarship opportunity requirements.

*Please be sure to have all necessary supporting documents (recommendations included) submitted **BEFORE** the application deadline (**Friday, February 11, 2022, 11:59 EST**).

How will I know if I'm eligible for new scholarships?

If you are eligible for a scholarship, you will see additional scholarship opportunities available after completing the General Scholarship Application.

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 (**Friday, February 11, 2022, 11:59 p.m. EST**).

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

One of the people I asked to submit a recommendation for me wants to send it by email. Is that okay?

No. All recommendations must be submitted using the online recommendation link provided to each reference once you submit your application. The form your reference completes attaches their recommendation to your application. No exceptions will be made.

How will I be notified if I'm chosen as a recipient of a scholarship?

If you are awarded a scholarship, you will receive an award email sent to the email address listed on your application. Please list an email address that you check often!

Can I print the application and mail it to you?

No, paper applications will not be accepted.

Are there exceptions for late applications or recommendations?

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. No exceptions will be made for missing the **final application deadline of Friday, February 11, 2022, 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! There are many outstanding high school students who would benefit from a flight training scholarship. Please note all applications are cleared after the scholarship recipients are selected. If still eligible, you must submit a new application and recommendations for each award cycle to ensure we're reviewing the most current information.

If I win a scholarship, 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.

If I win a scholarship, how long do I have to obtain my certificate/rating?

Scholarship recipients have 12 months from the time they are awarded to obtain their certificate/rating and utilize scholarship funding.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The website says that I have to be an AOPA member to apply. How do I become a member?

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click](#) to learn about our free AV8RS membership or review our membership options [here](#).

I am homeschooled. Who can serve as a reference in place of my parent, who is my teacher?

References from relatives and friends will **disqualify** your application. References should be written by adults who have interacted with you as your supervisor or leader. Teachers, coaches, Civil Air Patrol leaders, flight instructors, after-school program supervisors, church leaders, and work supervisors are examples of people who can be used as references.

What is a transcript?

A transcript is an official list of all the courses you have taken during high school, including the grades you have earned during the 2020-2021 school year, including your cumulative, unweighted GPA. This list, along with the grades you have earned in each course, is an official document from your school.

What should be included in my transcript?

A transcript should include all the courses you have taken during high school, including your earned grades for those courses. It should also include your cumulative, unweighted grade point average (GPA), which is the average of all your grades from the courses you have taken in high school. The transcript from your school should also include the school name (an unofficial copy is fine).

Please note: Do not mail transcripts.

How recent should my transcript be?

The transcript you provide must be dated within the 2020-2021 school year. If you are in grades 10-12, you should only include high school grades. If you are a 9th-grade student, then middle school grades can be included.

Who can be a reference for me?

You will need to submit two references. At least one reference must be from a teacher, guidance counselor, coach, or another school official. The other reference can also be from another teacher, school official, flight instructor (if you have one), or another adult who knows you well or has supervised you. References should be adults who know you, not friends who are your age.

Be sure to ask your reference if they can complete this for you by the deadlines specified before listing them as a reference. Should you need to ask someone else to serve as a reference for you, you can log back into the application system and edit the application field that asks for a reference's name and email address at any time until the deadline.

Please make sure the references you choose can use or have access to a computer to submit their reference to your online application.

In no situation should a parent, guardian, or other relative complete a reference for you. If a parent, guardian, or other relative completes a reference for you, your application will be **disqualified**. If you are homeschooled, and your parent is your only teacher, provide a reference instead for an adult who has had a supervisory role over you, such as an employer, extracurricular activity leader, youth pastor, etc. Your application will be disqualified if a parent or guardian is used as a reference, even if they are your only teacher.

Who cannot be a reference for me?

References cannot be provided by a parent, guardian, or another relative. If an applicant is homeschooled with the parent serving in the role of teacher, the applicant must ask another adult to serve as a reference who has been in a supervisory role over the applicant. References should be people who supervised you, not friends who are your age.

What should my references write about me?

Your reference should explain how they know you and what their relationship is to you. They also might describe how you display responsibility, leadership traits, good decision-making skills, and your interest in aviation. Excellent references will help make the case why you should be chosen for a scholarship, so select someone who can say good things about you.

What GPA should I use, weighted or unweighted?

Your GPA should be based on the unweighted method of calculating a GPA and be provided using a 4.0 scale.

I am in the 9th grade. What should I do for my GPA and transcript?

If you are a 9th-grade student, then middle school grades can also be included. Transcripts should show all courses taken along with grades that were earned for each course. Transcripts also list your cumulative average.

What am I required to turn in with my application?

Applicants must:

1. Complete an online application with written responses.
2. Upload your most recent high school transcript, including the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Provide **two** references. At least one must be from a teacher, counselor, flight instructor, coach, or another school official. Both references could be from teachers, counselors, coaches, or other school officials. References should be from people who supervised you, not friends who are your same age. References cannot be provided by a parent, guardian, or another relative. If a parent, guardian, or other relative completes a reference for you, your application will be disqualified.
4. Scholarship funds/monies received by the applicant must be spent and exhausted on authorized expenses within twelve (12) months of the applicant's receipt of any scholarship funds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - TEACHERS

The website says that I have to be an AOPA member to apply. How do I become a member?

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click](#) to learn about our free six-month student membership or review our membership options [here](#).

I'm a teacher. Am I eligible?

To apply, a teacher must be a current, paid, full-time employee of a school or school system in the 2021-2022 school year and utilizing the [AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum](#). The teacher will need to verify their employment by providing a letter from the school system signed by a district administrator.

I've completed some flight training. Can I still apply?

It is okay to have taken some flying lessons as long as you have not completed your checkride.

I want to learn to fly for personal reasons but do not teach aviation at my school. Am I eligible to receive a scholarship?

This program is to help teachers teaching aviation to their students become pilots. Individuals who happen to be teachers but want to learn how to fly for personal reasons may be better suited to apply to the AOPA Primary Certification Scholarship program.

I am a private pilot. Can I use these funds to pursue an advanced rating?

No, this scholarship is to assist teachers in achieving their primary pilot certificate. If you are an AOPA member, you can apply for an AOPA Advanced Rating Scholarship to pursue an advanced rating.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PRIMARY TRAINING

The website says that I have to be an AOPA member to apply. How do I become a member?

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click](#) to learn about our free six-month student membership or review our membership options [here](#).

What is a student pilot certificate, and how do I get one?

A student pilot certificate is issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). You can obtain a student pilot certificate from a designated pilot examiner (DPE), an FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), a Certificated Flight Instructor, or flight school.

The easiest way to get a student pilot certificate is to visit a local flight school. To find one near you, [click here](#) and ask to make an appointment to get a student pilot certificate.

To find a Flight Standards District Office or a designated pilot examiner, [click here](#). Contact the office and ask to make an appointment to get a student pilot certificate. If they cannot see you or are not conveniently located near you, ask them to provide contact information for the designated pilot examiners in your area.

What is IACRA, and how do I apply to get my student pilot certificate?

IACRA is an FAA website used to electronically apply for Airmen Certificates. At the end of the process, your application is sent to the Airmen Registry to process and issue your certificate.

You may apply online by yourself; however, it is easier to have a Certificated Flight Instructor (or Recommending Instructor) with you to assist. You MUST meet with a CFI or RI to complete the process and submit the application. Be sure to bring a valid photo ID with you when you meet.

You can read more about the process [here](#) and [here](#).

I hold a private pilot certificate to fly gliders, and now I am working toward my private pilot certificate for airplanes. Can I apply for this scholarship?

If you already hold a pilot certificate of any type (other than an FAA student pilot certificate), you are not eligible for this scholarship. Only students training for their initial pilot certificate may apply.

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 a pilot certificate, 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.

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. Additionally, you do not need to have aviation career aspirations to apply.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ADVANCED RATING

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 to apply. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of memberships options. [Click here](#) to learn more.

I hold a private pilot certificate to fly gliders, and now I am working toward my private pilot certificate for airplanes. Can I apply for this scholarship?

No. This scholarship series is reserved for certificated Private Pilots 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 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.

REMINDER!

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

If we haven't answered your questions here, please email FTscholarship@aopa.org.