

Time and Money

Picking a Flight School

How to Spot the "Red Flags"



Things to Ask Yourself BEFORE Shopping for a Flight School

- What is my purpose after training is done?
- What are the running costs after I finish? Staying Current
- I'm a a slow learner?
- How do I learn something new the best?





Things to Ask Yourself BEFORE Shopping for a Flight School

- What is my budget?
- How much time/days per week can I commit to this?
- What do I need to get/do before starting training?
- Do I have a good reason to choose a Part 141 school?





Key Facts to Know BEFORE going to a school

- Average completion times are around 72 hours
- For every hour of flight instruction, you need 0.5 ground
- You need to buy a headset, iPad, ForeFlight and an online course









Key Facts to Know BEFORE going to a school

- Expect to spend around \$14 \$18K
- Consider buying a two place airplane
- Written test and examiners fees will be around \$900 total
- There is more to know than there is to learn to fly
- Expect a considerable investment in time to study/understand





Key Facts to Know BEFORE going to a school

- Written test scores FAA knowledge tests aren't a good reflection of what you know
- What you want and are willing to pay for aren't the same and are probably impossibe – Most experienced CFI, low hourly rate
- Find a school with more than one of the same make and model
- The oldest and cheapest airplanes break the most Delays





The BIG "Red Flags"

- Requiring large prepayments/deposits
- Long completion times delays in checkrides
- Airplanes down for long periods of time
- Students show low morale





The BIG "Red Flags"

- High training activity away from campus at non-towered airports
- Rates that are substantially lower than other schools same area
- Unclean airplanes Grease marks on the cowling etc.
- Understaffing issues High turnover





Problems

- Foreign students self-paying Need 141 and M1 Visa
- Foreign students will most likely prepay
- Underfunded students looking to cut corners
- Students looking for a deal

M1 Visa vs. F1 Visa

Criteria	M1 Visa	F1 Visa
Type of Study	Vocational/Technical Programs	Academic Studies (colleges/universities)
Work Opportunities	Limited (on-campus only, no off-campus)	On-campus, OPT, and CPT options
Program Duration	Fixed and usually shorter	Varies (from 4-2 years)
Post-Completion Work	Limited Optional Practical Training (OPT)	OPT and H1B transition possible





Solutions

- Pay as you go
- Small 10 hours or less block rate deals on planes are ok
- Pay with a credit card Not a debit card Recourse
- Finish a course as quickly as you can







Solutions

- Sit in the lobby on a busy day Observe the mood/conversations
- Talk with other students but not within earshot of school staff
- Determine completion times
- Talk to DPEs in the area





Questions to Ask

- How many of these have you done?
- How long is a typical lesson How much is that?
- Can I pay with a credit card?
- What ground training can I do on my own?







Questions to Ask

- What is the cancellation policy for a lesson?
- How long in advance can I book you and the airplane?
- What happens if we can't fly due to weather/maintenance?
- Do you/the school have a flight training device (Sim)?
- Do you use the sim for private pilot training?

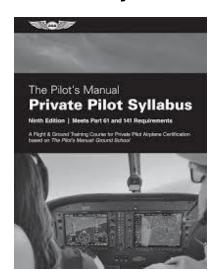






Questions to Ask

- What are your plans regarding working here?
- Is there a chief pilot or owner?
- What syllabus are you using for this?
- How long does a typical preflight and post flight briefing take?
- What is your relationship with the DPE that will do my test?







From Us to You!

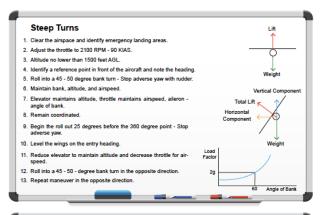
Preflight Briefings



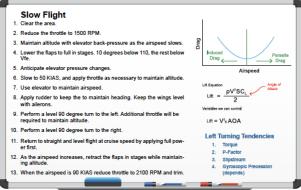
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From Us to You!



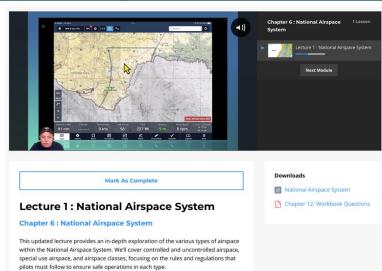
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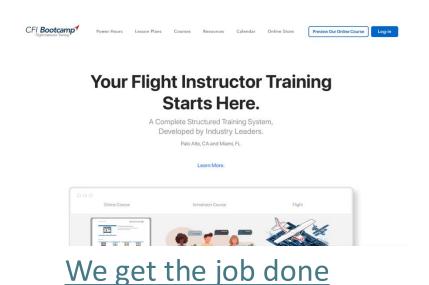
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In Conclusion...

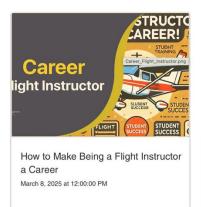
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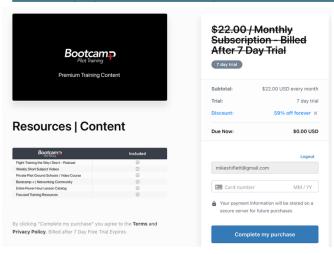






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