



2021 AOPA PRIMARY TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship applicants* must meet all the following criteria:

1. Current member of AOPA at both the time of application and when the scholarship is awarded. Not a member? AOPA offers a free [six-month membership](#) for student pilots and other [membership options](#).
1. U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident.
2. Be at least 16 years of age by the time the application closes. There are no exceptions to this; if you will not be 16 years old by February 14, 2021, then you are not eligible to apply.
3. Hold a current FAA Student Pilot Certificate at the time of application or have a pending Student Pilot Certificate application in IACRA. See the FAQs below for more details.
4. Not have completed the FAA practical test/checkride at the time of application.

** 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

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 that is used to electronically apply for Airmen Certificates. At the end of the process, your application is sent to the Airmen Registry for processing and issuance of 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 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?

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.

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.

CAN I PRINT THE APPLICATION AND MAIL IT IN?

No, paper applications cannot be accepted.

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 p.m. 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 you once you submit your application. The link is unique to you and attaches their recommendation 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 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.

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

SHOULD I ASK MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ME?

No. The system will only accept two recommendations for each scholarship applicant. You should only ask a third person if one of the first two people you ask is unable to complete the online recommendation form by the deadline.

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.

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.

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](#)
