



Sanford-Lee County Airport  
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**Private Pilot License Estimated Costs**

How long does it take to learn to fly and how much does it cost? It depends. Qualifying as a pilot is a learning process, and some people will acquire that new skill more quickly than others and some will have more time and energy to devote to the task. One obtains a private pilot certificate when one masters the necessary skills to be a safe pilot.

The FAA requires a minimum of 40 hours of flight experience (20 hours of dual instruction and 20 hours of solo flight) but very few pilots achieve the necessary competence in forty hours. The national average is closer to 75 hours. Most Club pilots average 50 to 60 hours in the course of training. A cost estimate based on the 40-hour minimum would be deceptive and unrealistic. Because we realize that learning to fly is a significant commitment of time and money, we want to provide prospective pilots with a realistic estimate of the actual cost based on our experience of the actual flight time they are likely to require and including the ancillary costs that they will encounter.

The following is an estimate of the total cost of acquiring a Private Pilot Certificate as a member of the Wings of Carolina Flying Club, including Club membership and dues. All costs are paid as encountered. There is no need to pay in advance. These estimates are based on a realistic estimate of **60-hours of flight time** and rates as of **October 2008**.

WINGS OF CAROLINA APPLICATION FEE .....	\$200
DEPOSIT (refundable).....	\$300
<i>This refundable deposit is an investment in the Club, which is returned to each member when he or she resigns. (Not included in Total below)</i>	
DUES.....	\$360
<i>Six months @ \$60/month. Dues reduction is available through volunteer effort.</i>	
FLIGHT TIME.....	\$4,380
<i>Sixty (60) hours in a Cessna 152 training aircraft at \$73 an hour. This is a wet rate (includes fuel).</i>	
INSTRUCTION .....	\$1000
<i>Forty (40) hours of ground and flight instruction with Wings of Carolina, FAA-certificated instructor @ \$25 an hour.</i>	
GROUND SCHOOL.....	\$195
<i>Wings of Carolina member rate for our ground school, which includes 36 classroom hours. Not required but highly recommended.</i>	
GROUND SCHOOL MATERIALS .....	\$100
<i>Includes texts, flight computer, and plotter available at wholesale to Club members.</i>	
HEADSET .....	\$130
<i>Aviation headset available through the Wings of Carolina at the Club's cost; A lifetime purchase.</i>	
FAA MEDICAL EXAM required prior to solo flight.....	\$80
FAA KNOWLEDGE TEST .....	\$80
FAA ORAL AND FLIGHT TEST .....	\$350
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE COST .....</b>	<b>\$6,875</b>