

NORTH AERO

AVIATION SERVICES · KSNS SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

PRIVATE PILOT READING GUIDE

COMPANION TO THE LESSON CHECKLIST BOOK · CURRICULUM 5.1

Airplane Single-Engine Land · PA-28-151 Warrior · FAA-S-ACS-6C

Every reading in this guide is drawn from current FAA source material:

PHAK 25C · AFH 3C · Aviation Weather Handbook 28B · AIM · 14 CFR · ACS-6C · Advisory Circulars · Chart Users' Guide · Chart Supplement · Warrior POH

Student: _____

Start date: _____

Instructor: _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide pairs page for page with your Lesson Checklist Book. Each lesson below lists the reading to complete **before** that lesson, assigned at the end of the lesson before it. Finish Lesson 4, open this guide to Lesson 5, and start reading. Arriving prepared turns expensive airplane time into practice instead of introduction.

The rhythm: your instructor previews the next lesson during the postflight discussion. That night or the next day, do the reading while the flight is still fresh. Check each box as you finish. Bring questions to the preflight briefing; that is what it is for.

Time estimates are honest approximations based on chapter length. Some weeks are light on purpose (before your solo) and some are heavy on purpose (before your first cross-country and during checkride prep). The two heaviest blocks are flagged so you can start them early.

Re-reads are not filler. When a section appears a second time, you are a different pilot than you were the first time. The material lands differently after you have flown it.

Every FAA handbook and advisory circular in this guide is a free PDF from faa.gov. The source library on the next page lists the exact editions this guide was verified against.

SOURCE LIBRARY

THE SHELF

Editions verified July 7, 2026 against faa.gov. Regulations are cited from the eCFR, which is always current. When the FAA revises a handbook, chapter titles usually survive; if a citation ever fails to line up, check the current edition's table of contents.

CODE	PUBLICATION	EDITION VERIFIED	WHERE TO GET IT
PHAK	Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge	FAA-H-8083-25C (2023)	faa.gov, free PDF by chapter
AFH	Airplane Flying Handbook	FAA-H-8083-3C (2021)	faa.gov, free PDF by chapter
AWH	Aviation Weather Handbook	FAA-H-8083-28B (current rev.)	faa.gov, free PDF
AIM	Aeronautical Information Manual	Basic w/ Change 2, eff. 1/22/2026	faa.gov, free HTML and PDF
14 CFR	Federal Aviation Regulations, Parts 61 and 91	Always current on ecf.gov	ecfr.gov or your FAR/AIM book
ACS	Private Pilot for Airplane Category ACS	FAA-S-ACS-6C	faa.gov Airman Testing
AC 90-66C	Non-Towered Airport Flight Operations	2023	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
AC 61-67C	Stall and Spin Awareness Training	w/ Changes 1 and 2	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
AC 61-65K	Certification: Pilots and Flight and Ground Instructors	Nov 14, 2025	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
AC 90-48E	Pilots' Role in Collision Avoidance	Oct 20, 2022	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
AC 91-73B	Single Pilot and Flight School Procedures During Taxi Operations	2012	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
AC 68-1A	BasicMed	2017	faa.gov Advisory Circulars
CUG	Aeronautical Chart Users' Guide	Eff. 1/22/2026 (56-day cycle)	faa.gov Aeronav digital products

CODE	PUBLICATION	EDITION VERIFIED	WHERE TO GET IT
CS	Chart Supplement	Current 56-day cycle	faa.gov Aeronav or your EFB
POH	PA-28-151 Warrior Pilot's Operating Handbook	N41459 aircraft copy	In the airplane and flight bag

PHASE 1

FUNDAMENTALS

Lessons 1-11. Airplane control and maneuvers, systems, emergency procedures, and the three decision-making scenarios.

LESSON 1 · BEFORE YOUR FIRST LESSON

Introduction to Flight

Goal: arrive knowing what the airplane parts are called, what a preflight is for, and what PAVE and IMSAFE mean. Nothing here needs to be mastered; it needs to be familiar.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 1, Introduction to Flying Sections: Pilot Certifications; The Student Pilot; Becoming a Pilot; Knowledge and Skill Tests	The road map for everything that follows, including what your certificate will let you do	~20 min
☐	AFH Ch 1, Introduction to Flight Training Whole chapter, especially Role of the Flight Instructor; Safety Considerations; Use of Checklists	Sets expectations for how training works and why we fly checklists, not memory	~35 min
☐	AFH Ch 2, Ground Operations Preflight Assessment of the Aircraft through Taxiing	You will do your first preflight, engine start, and taxi on Lesson 1	~40 min
☐	PHAK Ch 2, Aeronautical Decision-Making Sections: Hazard and Risk; Hazardous Attitudes and Antidotes; The PAVE Checklist	PAVE and IMSAFE start on day one and never stop	~20 min
☐	POH General description and Normal Procedures walkthrough	Meet your airplane on paper before you meet it on the ramp	~30 min

Estimated total: about 2 hr 25 min

LESSON 2 · READ AFTER LESSON 1

Basic Maneuvers: Slow Flight, Stalls, Steep Turns Intro

Slow flight and stalls make far more sense in the air when you already know why a wing stalls at one angle of attack, every time.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 3, Basic Flight Maneuvers Whole chapter: The Four Fundamentals; Straight-and-Level Flight; Level Turns; Climbs and Climbing Turns; Descents and Descending Turns	The four fundamentals are the whole lesson; everything else is combinations	~55 min
☐	AFH Ch 5, Maintaining Aircraft Control Sections: Slow Flight; Stalls, from Stall Recognition through Full Stalls, Power-Off	Exactly the maneuvers you will fly, with the recovery template	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 4, Principles of Flight Whole chapter (short)	Lift, angle of attack, and why the airplane flies at all	~25 min
☐	PHAK Ch 5, Aerodynamics of Flight Sections: Forces Acting on the Aircraft; Stalls; Angle of Attack Indicators	Connects the physics to what the nose and buffet are telling you	~30 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AIM Ch 4, Section 2, Radio Communications Phraseology Whole section	You own the radios starting now	~20 min

Estimated total: about 2 hr 40 min

LESSON 3 · READ AFTER LESSON 2

Four Fundamentals and Coordination

From this lesson on you run the preflight, start, radios, taxi, and parking without direction. Reading is lighter so you can rehearse procedures.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 3, Basic Flight Maneuvers Re-read: Attitude Flying; Integrated Flight Instruction; the Common Errors lists under each maneuver	The common-errors lists are a preview of your own debrief	~25 min
☐	AFH Ch 4, Energy Management Whole chapter	Pitch, power, altitude, and airspeed as one system; this is the North Aero way of thinking	~40 min
☐	PHAK Ch 5, Aerodynamics of Flight Sections: Basic Propeller Principles (torque, P-factor); Free Directional Oscillations (Dutch Roll)	Why the airplane yaws and why your feet matter; Dutch rolls are on the lesson	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 6, Flight Controls Whole chapter (short)	What each control surface and trim tab actually does	~25 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 50 min

LESSON 4 · READ AFTER LESSON 3

Stall Recovery, Ground Reference, Instrument Intro, Go-Around Intro

Four new things at once: ground reference, hood work, go-arounds, and the first simulated forced landing. The readings are short and specific.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 7, Ground Reference Maneuvers Intro through S-Turns, including Drift and Ground Track Control and Rectangular Course	Wind drift correction is the entire trick; read how before you try it	~30 min
☐	AFH Ch 9, Approaches and Landings Section: Go-Arounds (Rejected Landings)	Power, attitude, configuration, in that order	~15 min
☐	AFH Ch 18, Emergency Procedures Sections: Emergency Landings; Basic Safety Concepts	First look at the forced-landing mindset before the instructor pulls the power	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 8, Flight Instruments Sections: Pitot-Static Flight Instruments; Gyroscopic Flight Instruments	Know what each instrument senses before you fly by them under the hood	~35 min
☐	AC 61-67C Core stall and spin awareness discussion	The FAA's own words on stall recognition and avoidance	~25 min

Estimated total: about 2 hr 5 min

LESSON 5 · READ AFTER LESSON 4

Emergency Procedures and Instrument Flying

Emergency lesson. The POH memory items matter more than any handbook this week.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 18, Emergency Procedures Whole chapter	Emergency landings, descents, fires, and system failures, all in one place	~55 min
☐	POH, Emergency Procedures section All memory items; best glide speed	These need to be instant, not looked up	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 4, Section 1, Services Available to Pilots Radar traffic information service (flight following)	You will request and use flight following on this flight	~15 min
☐	AIM Ch 6, Sections 1-3 General; Emergency Services Available to Pilots; Distress and Urgency Procedures	Who to call, what to say, and when MAYDAY is the right word	~20 min

Estimated total: about 2 hr

LESSON 6 · READ AFTER LESSON 5

Maneuver Review and Emergency Procedures

Review week. Catch up on anything unfinished from Lessons 1 through 5, then do these short re-reads.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 3 and Ch 5 Re-read the Common Errors lists for the maneuvers your instructor flagged	Targeted fixes beat general review	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 2, Aeronautical Decision-Making Sections: The Decision-Making Process; Situational Awareness	The lesson objective is judgment as much as stick and rudder	~20 min
☐	POH, Emergency Procedures section Re-run the memory items, hands on the paper checklist	Repetition is the point	~15 min

Estimated total: about 55 min

LESSON 7 · READ AFTER LESSON 6

Takeoffs and Landings, Steep Turns, Stalls

Concentrated pattern work begins. Chapter 9 is the highest-value reading of Phase 1; give it real time.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 6, Takeoffs and Departure Climbs Sections: Prior to Takeoff; Normal Takeoff; Crosswind Takeoff; Ground Effect on Takeoff	The takeoff roll, liftoff, and initial climb, step by step	~30 min
☐	AFH Ch 8, Airport Traffic Patterns Whole chapter (short)	Pattern legs, spacing, and where to look	~20 min
☐	AFH Ch 9, Approaches and Landings Sections: Normal Approach and Landing; Stabilized Approach Concept; Round Out (Flare); Faulty Approaches and Landings	Reading the faulty-approach section now saves you three lessons later	~45 min
☐	AFH Ch 10, Performance Maneuvers Section: Steep Turns	45 degrees of bank, load factor, and overbanking tendency	~10 min
☐	AFH Ch 5, Maintaining Aircraft Control Section: Accelerated Stalls	New stall type introduced this lesson	~10 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AC 90-48E Scanning techniques and see-and-avoid discussion	The pattern is where traffic lives	~20 min

Estimated total: about 2 hr 15 min

LESSON 8 · READ AFTER LESSON 7

Crosswind, Slips, Soft Field, Go-Arounds

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 9, Approaches and Landings Sections: Crosswind Approach and Landing; Maximum Safe Crosswind Velocities; Intentional Slips; Forward Slip to a Landing; Soft-Field Approach and Landing	Every new technique on this lesson, in one chapter	~35 min
☐	AFH Ch 6, Takeoffs and Departure Climbs Section: Soft/Rough-Field Takeoff and Climb	Yoke back, weight off the nosewheel early	~10 min
☐	PHAK Ch 11, Aircraft Performance Section: Crosswind and Headwind Component Chart	How to break a wind into its crosswind component before you fly	~10 min
☐	POH Demonstrated crosswind component and crosswind technique notes	Know the airplane's demonstrated number and our school limit	~10 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 5 min

LESSON 9 · READ AFTER LESSON 8

The Mumble (Scenario: Lost Communications)

Scenario lesson. The reading IS the preparation; the flight tests whether you can use it under pressure.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 14, Airport Operations Sections: Radio Communications; Lost Communication Procedures	Includes the light gun signal table; know it cold	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 4, Section 3, Airport Operations Traffic pattern and light signal material	How a tower handles a NORDO arrival	~25 min
☐	AIM Ch 6, Section 4, Two-way Radio Communications Failure Whole section	The official procedure you will fly in the scenario	~10 min
☐	PHAK Ch 7, Aircraft Systems Section: Electrical System	Why an alternator failure becomes a dead battery, and on what timeline	~15 min
☐	POH, Emergency Procedures Alternator/electrical failure procedure; electrical system description	The Warrior-specific load-shedding decision	~15 min
☐	14 CFR 91.126 - 91.129 Airport operations in Class G, E, and D airspace	The rule that makes light gun signals legal to follow	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 50 min

LESSON 10 · READ AFTER LESSON 9

When the Fan Stops (Scenario: Engine Failure on Departure)

The most important safety lesson in the curriculum. Read the AFH turnback discussion twice.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 18, Emergency Procedures Sections: Emergency Landings; Engine Failure After Takeoff (Single-Engine); Emergency Descents	Includes the FAA's revised guidance on turning back after an engine failure	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 5, Aerodynamics of Flight Section: Load Factors, especially Load Factors and Stalling Speeds and the Vg Diagram	The 0G/2G stall-speed physics the lesson demonstrates at altitude	~25 min
☐	AC 61-67C Re-read stall/spin scenarios at low altitude	Why the impossible turn kills: stall/spin, not the landing	~15 min
☐	POH, Emergency Procedures Engine failure procedures; best glide speed and glide performance	ABCDE flows from these numbers	~20 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 30 min

LESSON 11 · READ AFTER LESSON 10

The Real Pickle (Scenario: Diversion)

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Sections: Lost Procedures; Flight Diversion	The rule-of-thumb diversion method you will use in the air	~15 min
☐	PHAK Ch 13, Aviation Weather Services Sections: Weather Briefings; Aviation Weather Reports (METAR); Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF)	First structured pass at reading weather products	~30 min
☐	AWH Ch 3, Overview of Aviation Weather Information Section: Obtaining Weather Information, including Self-Briefing	How to brief yourself like the FAA expects	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 2, Aeronautical Decision-Making Sections: CARE Checklist; TEAM Checklist; personal minimums discussion	The grass strip vs strong crosswind choice is a personal minimums problem	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 20 min

PHASE 2

CROSS-COUNTRY AND NIGHT

Lessons 12-16. Instrument work, the dual cross-countries, and the first night flying.

LESSON 12 · READ AFTER LESSON 11

Instrument Work, Compass, Unusual Attitudes, Short Field

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 8, Flight Instruments Section: Compass Systems, especially Magnetic Compass Induced Errors	Compass turns under the hood demand you know UNOS/ANDS behavior	~20 min
☐	AFH Ch 5, Maintaining Aircraft Control Sections: Unusual Attitudes Versus Upsets; Recovery; Spiral Dive	The recognition-then-recover sequence for nose-high and nose-low	~25 min
☐	AFH Ch 6, Takeoffs and Departure Climbs Section: Short-Field Takeoff and Maximum Performance Climb	Vx, obstacle clearance, and technique	~10 min
☐	AFH Ch 9, Approaches and Landings Section: Short-Field Approach and Landing	Energy management to a spot, not a zone	~15 min
☐	POH, Performance section Short-field takeoff and landing charts	Fly the numbers the chart gives, not a feeling	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 25 min

LESSON 13 · READ AFTER LESSON 12

First Dual Cross-Country

Heaviest reading block in the syllabus. Start it the day after Lesson 12 and split it across several evenings. PHAK Chapter 16 is the backbone of every cross-country you will ever fly.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Whole chapter: charts, plotting, wind triangle, pilotage, dead reckoning, VOR, GPS, Flight Planning, Charting the Course	You plan this flight yourself; the chapter is the manual for doing it	~85 min
☐	PHAK Ch 15, Airspace Whole chapter	You will identify and transition airspace enroute	~30 min
☐	CUG, Chart Users' Guide VFR sectional chart symbology sections	Every symbol on your route, decoded	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 14, Airport Operations Section: Sources for Airport Data (Chart Supplement)	How to read the destination airport's full entry	~15 min
☐	AIM Ch 5, Section 1, Preflight Whole section	Flight plans, briefings, and NOTAMs, per the book	~20 min
☐	14 CFR 91.103 and 91.151 Preflight action; VFR fuel requirements	The two regs every nav log must satisfy	~10 min

Estimated total: about 3 hr 10 min

LESSON 14 · READ AFTER LESSON 13

Dual Triangular Cross-Country

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Re-read: Lost Procedures; Flight Diversion	Both get exercised on this flight, for real this time	~10 min
☐	AC 90-66C Whole AC	Non-towered pattern entry, CTAF calls, and straight-in guidance for your intermediate stops	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 4, Section 1 Traffic advisory practices at airports without operating control towers	The AIM version of the same procedures	~15 min
☐	AWH Ch 26, Advisories Sections: SIGMET; AIRMET	What the briefer means when one pops up on your route	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16 + 14 CFR 91.151 Fuel Consumption section; fuel reserve rule	Multi-leg fuel math with reserves	~10 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 25 min

LESSON 15 · READ AFTER LESSON 14

Short/Soft Field, Emergency Procedures, XC Emergencies

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 6 and Ch 9 Re-read all four short-field and soft-field sections, including Common Errors	These go to near-ACS standard this lesson	~25 min
☐	AFH Ch 18, Emergency Procedures Sections: System Malfunctions; Abnormal Engine Instrument Indication; In-Flight Fire	The cross-country emergency menu	~25 min
☐	PHAK Ch 7, Aircraft Systems Review: Fuel Systems; Electrical System; Ignition System; Oil Systems; Engine Cooling Systems	You can't diagnose a system you can't describe	~30 min
☐	ACS Task PA.IX.D Emergency Equipment and Survival Gear knowledge elements	The checklist for the gear review in this lesson	~10 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 30 min

LESSON 16 · READ AFTER LESSON 15

Night Flight: Local Area and Landings

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 11, Night Operations Whole chapter	Night vision, illusions, equipment, and night landings, start to finish	~35 min
☐	PHAK Ch 17, Aeromedical Factors Sections: Vision in Flight; Night Vision; Night Vision Illusions; Night Landing Illusions	The physiology behind the AFH procedures	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 2, Section 1, Airport Lighting Aids Whole section	Beacons, VASI/PAPI, REILs, and pilot-controlled lighting	~20 min
☐	14 CFR 91.209 and 61.87(o) Position lights; solo night training requirements	What makes your three solo night landings legal	~10 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	POH Electrical and lighting system description	Cockpit and exterior lighting, and what fails when the alternator quits at night	~10 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 45 min

PHASE 3

SOLO FLIGHT AND CROSS-COUNTRY

Lessons 17-29. Pre-solo review through first solo and the solo cross-countries.

LESSON 17 · READ AFTER LESSON 16

Pre-Solo Review and Confidence Building

Your pre-solo knowledge test comes from these regs, the POH, and KSNS procedures. Read like it counts, because it does.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.87 Whole section: solo requirements for student pilots	The rule your solo flies under, including the knowledge test requirement	~20 min
☐	14 CFR 91.3, 91.7, 91.103, 91.111, 91.113, 91.117, 91.119 PIC authority; airworthiness; preflight action; formation; right-of-way; speed; minimum safe altitudes	The core pre-solo regs, and pre-solo test material	~25 min
☐	PHAK Ch 14, Airport Operations Sections: Collision Avoidance; Runway Incursion Avoidance	Solo means nobody else is scanning	~20 min
☐	AC 91-73B Single-pilot taxi procedures	Sterile cockpit and taxi discipline, solo edition	~20 min
☐	Sectional + CS KSNS Class D dimensions, frequencies, and the airport's Chart Supplement entry	Know your home field's numbers without looking	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 40 min

LESSON 18 · READ AFTER LESSON 17

First Solo

Deliberately light. Sleep well, eat, hydrate. The airplane flies better without an instructor in it; expect the climb to surprise you.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.87(a)-(d) and (n) Solo requirements and the 90-day endorsement rule	Know exactly what your endorsements authorize	~15 min
☐	AC 61-65K Student pilot solo endorsement samples	See what your instructor is signing and why	~15 min
☐	AFH Ch 8, Airport Traffic Patterns Re-read (short)	Three perfect patterns is the whole assignment	~15 min

Estimated total: about 45 min

LESSON 19 · READ AFTER LESSON 18

Dual/Solo Review: Critical Stalls, XC Prep

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 5, Maintaining Aircraft Control Sections: Full Stalls, Power-On; Secondary Stall; Cross-Control Stall; Elevator Trim Stall; Spin Awareness; Spin Procedures	Power-on stalls and spin awareness are new this lesson	~30 min
☐	AC 61-67C Whole AC, with Changes 1 and 2	The complete stall/spin awareness syllabus in the FAA's words	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Sections: Charting the Course; Filing a VFR Flight Plan	Your XC planning homework starts after this lesson	~20 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 20 min

LESSON 20 · READ AFTER LESSON 19

First Solo Without Prior Dual Checkout

The lesson is really about the go/no-go decision you make alone at the desk, before you ever touch the airplane.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 13, Aviation Weather Services Re-read: METAR and TAF decoding	You brief this flight solo; decode without a translator app first	~25 min
☐	AWH Ch 24, Observations Section: METAR/SPECI Format	The full field-by-field breakdown, including remarks	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 2, Aeronautical Decision-Making Re-read: PAVE; IMSAFE; The 5 Ps Check	Run them for real against today's weather and your own state	~15 min
☐	14 CFR 91.103 Preflight action	All available information means all	~5 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 15 min

LESSON 21 · READ AFTER LESSON 20

Post-Solo Maneuver Review

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 7, Ground Reference Maneuvers Whole chapter, adding Turns Around a Point and Elementary Eights	Turns around a point joins the set this lesson	~35 min
☐	AFH Ch 10, Performance Maneuvers Steep Turns, including Common Errors	Tighten toward ACS tolerances	~10 min
☐	ACS Tasks PA.V.A and PA.V.B Skill elements and tolerances	Know the numbers you are practicing toward: altitude 100 ft, heading 10 degrees, bank 5 degrees	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr

LESSON 22 · READ AFTER LESSON 21

Solo Practice: VOR, Landings, Steep Turns

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Sections: VOR through Course Intercept, including Tracking With VOR and Tips on Using the VOR	TO/FROM, reverse sensing, and bracketing before you fly it solo	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 1, Section 1, Navigation Aids VOR material	Service volumes and receiver checks	~20 min
☐	AFH Ch 9, Approaches and Landings Re-read: Forward Slip to a Landing	On the solo practice list	~10 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr

LESSON 22A · READ AFTER LESSON 22

Instrument Navigation

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 8, Flight Instruments Whole chapter	Everything under the hood comes from these instruments and their failure modes	~55 min
☐	AFH Ch 3, Basic Flight Maneuvers Section: Integrated Flight Instruction	Attitude flying by instrument reference	~10 min
☐	AFH Ch 18, Emergency Procedures Section: Inadvertent VFR Flight Into IMC	The survival case this lesson trains for	~15 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Sections: Global Positioning System; VFR Use of GPS; RAIM Capability	The GPS leg of the navigation exercise	~15 min
☐	14 CFR 61.109(a)(3) Instrument training requirement	Why these 3 hours exist	~5 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 40 min

LESSON 23 · READ AFTER LESSON 22A

Night Cross-Country (Dual)

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AFH Ch 11, Night Operations Re-read: Orientation and Navigation; Approaches and Landings; Night Emergencies	Night pilotage is a different skill; lighted checkpoints only	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 17, Aeromedical Factors Re-read night vision and dark adaptation sections	Protect your night vision from preflight to shutdown	~15 min
☐	14 CFR 91.151 and 61.109(a)(2) Night fuel reserve (45 min); night experience requirements	The requirement this flight satisfies, and its fuel math	~10 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Flight Planning sections, applied to your night route	Plan the same, then add lighting, terrain, and alternates	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr

LESSON 24 · READ AFTER LESSON 23

First Solo Cross-Country

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.93 Whole section, especially (e)	Every training item your endorsement certifies is listed here	~20 min
☐	AC 61-65K Solo cross-country endorsement samples	The per-flight endorsement your instructor signs after reviewing your planning	~10 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Re-read: Charting the Course; Filing a VFR Flight Plan	Your plan, your nav log, your flight	~20 min
☐	AIM Ch 5, Section 1, Preflight VFR flight plan filing and activation	File and open it; someone should know where you are	~15 min
☐	CS, Chart Supplement Full entry for your destination airport	Runways, frequencies, fuel, and the fine print	~15 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 20 min

LESSON 25 · READ AFTER LESSON 24

Solo Cross-Country: 100nm+ Requirement

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.109(a)(5) The long solo XC requirement, read in the original	150 nm total, three points, one 50 nm segment; verify your route satisfies it	~10 min
☐	PHAK Ch 11, Aircraft Performance Sections: Performance Charts; Takeoff Charts; Climb and Cruise Charts; Landing Charts	Three legs means three sets of numbers	~30 min
☐	POH, Performance section Cruise performance and range; takeoff and landing charts for each stop	Real numbers for the actual airports	~25 min
☐	AWH Ch 27, Forecasts Sections: Winds and Temperatures Aloft; TAF	Your groundspeed and fuel plan live in the winds aloft	~25 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 30 min

LESSON 26 · READ AFTER LESSON 25

Checkride Maneuver Review (Dual)

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	ACS, Areas of Operation IV, V, VII, VIII, IX Every flight Task's skill elements and tolerances	This flight is scored against these pages; read them like a checklist	~45 min
☐	AFH Skim the Common Errors list for each maneuver in Ch 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	Predict your deficiencies before the flight finds them	~30 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 15 min

LESSON 27 · READ AFTER LESSON 26

Solo Cross-Country: Multiple Airports

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	AC 90-66C Re-read: pattern entry and straight-in approach guidance	Mixed towered and non-towered stops; fit in politely everywhere	~20 min
☐	PHAK Ch 14, Airport Operations Sections: Airport Markings and Signs; Land and Hold Short Operations (LAHSO); ATC Instructions	Unfamiliar taxiways are where solo pilots get in trouble	~30 min
☐	AIM Ch 4, Section 3, Airport Operations Whole section	Towered airport procedures, runway crossing, and LUAW	~25 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 15 min

LESSON 28 · READ AFTER LESSON 27

Solo Maneuver Practice: Airwork

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	ACS Tasks PA.V.A, PA.VII.A, PA.VII.B, PA.VII.C Skill elements and tolerances	Grade yourself in the air against the real standard	~15 min
☐	AFH Ch 5 and Ch 10 Common Errors for slow flight, stalls, steep turns	Bring the fix, not just the maneuver	~15 min

Estimated total: about 30 min

LESSON 29 · READ AFTER LESSON 28

Solo Practice: Ground Ref, Short Field, Pattern

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	ACS Tasks PA.V.B, PA.IV.E, PA.IV.F Skill elements and tolerances	Last solo practice before checkride prep; know the numbers	~15 min
☐	AFH Ch 7 Re-read weak-area sections from your last debrief	Targeted, not general	~15 min
☐	AFH Ch 6 and Ch 9 Short-field Common Errors	Spot landings within ACS distance start now	~15 min

Estimated total: about 45 min

PHASE 4

CHECKRIDE PREPARATION

Lessons 30-37. ACS task review, simulated checkride, and the practical test.

LESSON 30 · READ AFTER LESSON 29

Checkride Prep Week 1: Tasks A and H + Flight 1

Phase 4 reading is heavy by design: each week's ground session assumes you arrive having read the material. The session refines; it does not introduce.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 2, Aeronautical Decision-Making Whole chapter, this time cover to cover	Task H: ADM, hazardous attitudes, PAVE, IMSAFE, 5P, SRM	~55 min
☐	PHAK Ch 17, Aeromedical Factors Whole chapter	Task H: hypoxia, hyperventilation, spatial disorientation, alcohol and drugs, DCS	~50 min
☐	14 CFR 61.3, 61.23, 61.56, 61.57, 61.113 Certificates and documents; medicals; flight review; currency; private pilot privileges and limitations	Task A, straight from the source	~30 min
☐	AC 68-1A BasicMed	Task A: the alternative to a third-class medical, and its limits	~20 min
☐	AIM Ch 8, Section 1, Fitness for Flight Whole section	The AIM's aeromedical companion to PHAK 17	~20 min
☐	ACS Tasks PA.I.A and PA.I.H All knowledge and risk management elements	The exact list the examiner questions from	~15 min

Estimated total: about 3 hr 10 min

LESSON 31 · READ AFTER LESSON 30

Checkride Prep Week 2: Tasks B and G + Flight 2

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 9, Flight Manuals and Other Documents Whole chapter	Task B: ARROW, airworthiness certificate, inspections, MEL, special flight permits	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 7, Aircraft Systems Whole chapter	Task G: engine, fuel, electrical, vacuum, pitot-static, environmental	~70 min
☐	PHAK Ch 6, Flight Controls Re-read (short)	Task G: primary and secondary controls, trim	~15 min
☐	PHAK Ch 8, Flight Instruments Re-read: Pitot-Static Flight Instruments; Gyroscopic Flight Instruments; Blockage of the Pitot-Static System	Task G: instrument systems and their failure modes	~20 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 91.203, 91.205, 91.207, 91.209, 91.213, 91.417 + Part 43 Appendix A Required documents and equipment; ELT; inoperative equipment; maintenance records; preventive maintenance	Task B: the airworthiness reg set, including the 91.213 flowchart logic	~30 min
☐	POH, Systems Description section Whole section for the Warrior	The examiner asks about YOUR airplane's systems, not a generic one	~30 min
☐	ACS Tasks PA.I.B and PA.I.G All knowledge elements, plus PA.IX.D survival gear	The question bank for Week 2	~15 min

Estimated total: about 3 hr 30 min

LESSON 32 · READ AFTER LESSON 31

Checkride Prep Week 3: Task C Weather + Solo Practice

The biggest week. Split the AWH chapters across the week; do not attempt them in one sitting.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 12, Weather Theory Whole chapter	The foundation: pressure, fronts, stability, fog, icing, thunderstorms	~55 min
☐	PHAK Ch 13, Aviation Weather Services Whole chapter	Products overview: briefings, METAR, TAF, AIRMET/SIGMET, charts	~50 min
☐	AWH Ch 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22 Air Masses, Fronts, and the Wave Cyclone Model; Atmospheric Stability; Weather and Obstructions to Visibility; Turbulence; Icing; Thunderstorms	Depth on exactly the hazards the oral drills: split across the week	~90 min
☐	AWH Ch 24, 26, 27, 28 METAR/SPECI format; Advisories (SIGMET/AIRMET/CWA); Forecasts (TAF, winds aloft, prog charts); GFA Tool	Product decoding to examiner standard, using the current product suite	~60 min
☐	14 CFR 91.155 Basic VFR weather minimums	Recite by airspace class, day and night	~10 min

Estimated total: about 4 hr 25 min

LESSON 33 · READ AFTER LESSON 32

Checkride Prep Week 4: Tasks D, E, F + Flight Review

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	PHAK Ch 10, Weight and Balance Whole chapter	Task F: computation, CG limits, shifting weight	~25 min
☐	PHAK Ch 11, Aircraft Performance Whole chapter	Task F: density altitude, takeoff/climb/cruise/landing charts, interpolation	~55 min
☐	PHAK Ch 15, Airspace Whole chapter, second pass	Task E: classes, SUA, TFRs, VFR minimums by class	~30 min
☐	PHAK Ch 16, Navigation Re-read: Flight Planning; Charting the Course; Filing a VFR Flight Plan	Task D: you will plan a real XC for the oral	~30 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 91.155, 91.157, 91.159 VFR minimums; Special VFR; VFR cruising altitudes	Task E reg set	~15 min
☐	CUG, Chart Users' Guide Re-read symbology you still hesitate on	The examiner points at the chart; you answer	~20 min
☐	ACS Tasks PA.I.D, PA.I.E, PA.I.F All knowledge elements	The Week 4 question bank	~15 min

Estimated total: about 3 hr 10 min

LESSON 34 · READ AFTER LESSON 33

Simulated Checkride: Oral Exam

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	ACS, Appendices Practical test checklist and oral exam format material	Know how the real event runs before the dress rehearsal	~20 min
☐	Your Task A-H study guides Re-read your own weak areas flagged in Weeks 1-4	The mock oral targets what you avoided	~60 min
☐	Document assembly Gather everything on the Lesson 34 items list: certificate, medical, logbook, aircraft records, POH, charts	Walking in organized is half the impression	~30 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 50 min

LESSON 35 · READ AFTER LESSON 34

Simulated Checkride: Flight Exam

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	ACS, all flight Areas of Operation Final read of every skill element and tolerance	The sim examiner grades to the letter	~30 min
☐	POH V-speeds, limitations, and emergency memory items, closed-book self-test	Instant recall expected	~30 min
☐	AFH Common Errors for your two weakest maneuvers	One last targeted fix	~20 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 20 min

LESSON 36 · READ AFTER LESSON 35

Deficiency Review and Final Polish

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.103, 61.107, 61.109 Eligibility; aeronautical knowledge; aeronautical experience	Audit your logbook line by line against 61.109 before the endorsement	~25 min
☐	AC 61-65K Practical test endorsement samples	What the final sign-off says	~10 min

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	Targeted re-reads Whatever the simulated checkride debrief flagged	This week exists to close those exact gaps	~45 min

Estimated total: about 1 hr 20 min

LESSON 37 · READ AFTER LESSON 36

Checkride

No new material. Cramming the night before a checkride costs more than it pays.

	READING	WHY IT MATTERS	EST.
☐	14 CFR 61.43 Practical tests: general procedures	What the DPE may and may not do, and what a discontinuance means	~10 min
☐	ACS, Appendices Applicant checklist; run it against your bag the night before	Missing paperwork is the most preventable bust	~30 min
☐	Light review only Skim your own notes; then stop, eat well, sleep	Arrive rested with calm confidence and good ADM	~15 min

Estimated total: about 55 min

VERIFICATION NOTES

KNOWN GAPS AND ESTIMATES

Chapter and section titles in this guide were checked against each publication's current table of contents on July 7, 2026. The items below are the honest edges of that verification.

- POH references use generic section names (Emergency Procedures, Performance, Systems Description). The 1970s-era PA-28-151 POH for N41459 predates the standardized GAMA format, and its exact section titles and page layout were not verified against the aircraft copy. Confirm against the airplane's POH and adjust if needed.
- Aviation Weather Handbook chapter titles and numbering were verified against the published tables of contents of the 2022 base edition and the 28A revision. FAA-H-8083-28B is the current revision (FAA page updated April 2026) and is assumed to keep the same chapter structure; spot-check chapter numbers on first use.
- AIM citations are given at chapter and section level (verified against the current AIM, Basic with Change 2, effective January 22, 2026). Paragraph-level numbers are deliberately omitted to keep the guide durable across AIM changes.
- Reading time estimates are derived from chapter page counts at roughly 2 to 2.5 minutes per page for illustrated technical material. They are estimates, not assignments; depth matters more than speed.
- AC 61-65K renumbered its endorsement samples; endorsements are cited by name rather than paragraph number.
- ACS task references follow FAA-S-ACS-6C as cited in the Lesson Checklist Book. If the FAA releases a new ACS revision, re-verify task letters before the checkride phase.

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