



# 2024 AOPA FOUNDATION FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline: **February 9, 2024** | 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

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

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association offers a variety of membership options that you can review [here](#).

### When can I apply?

The scholarship application will open from **September 4, 2023, to February 9, 2023, at 11:59 (EST)**.

**Please note:** If you previously applied, you must be a current AOPA member and complete a new 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 do not have an account, please create a username and password. Your AOPA credentials will not grant you access to Academic Works. We recommend 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.

\*Please submit all necessary supporting documents (recommendations included) BEFORE the application deadline **(Friday, February 9, 2024, 11:59 EST)**.

### I am homeschooled. Who can serve as a reference in place of my parents? 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 your grades earned during the 2023-2024 school year and your cumulative, unweighted GPA.

**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's 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 2023-2024 school year. If you are in grades 10-12, you should only include high school grades. If you are a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student, middle school grades can be included.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> grade. What should I do for my GPA and transcript?**

If you are a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student, 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 must I turn in with my application if I am a high school student?**

Applicants must:

1. Complete an online application with written responses.
2. Upload your most recent high school transcript, including the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Provide **two** references. At least one must be 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. A parent, guardian, or another relative cannot provide references. If a parent, guardian, or other relative completes a reference for you, your application will be disqualified.

**I am 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 2023-2024 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 want to learn to fly for personal reasons, but I do not teach aviation at my school. Am I eligible to receive a scholarship?**

This program is to help teachers teach aviation to their students to become pilots.

**For the teacher's scholarship, can I use these funds to pursue an advanced rating?**

No, this scholarship assists teachers in achieving their primary pilot certificate.

**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.

**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 for longer than 24 calendar months, you 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.

### **I have 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. If you pass your checkride before the application closes, you will no longer qualify for a scholarship.

### **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 your references a link to the online recommendation form. Ask your two references to complete the online form by the application deadline (**Friday, February 9, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST**).

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

\* Please confirm with your reference which email address should be used on your application. They will have to create an account with the same email address.

### **Who can be a reference for me?**

You will need to submit two references. If you are a high school student, 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 references 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, 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?**

A parent, guardian, or another relative cannot provide references. If an applicant is homeschooled with the parent serving as a 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 your age.

**What should my references write about me?**

Your reference should explain how they know you and their relationship with you. They also might describe how you display responsibility, leadership traits, good decision-making skills, and 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.

**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 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 am chosen as a scholarship recipient?**

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 9, 2024, at 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 did not 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 are 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.

**How long do I have to obtain my certificate/rating if I win a scholarship?**

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

## REMINDER!

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

If we have not answered your questions here, please email [FTscholarship@aopa.org](mailto:FTscholarship@aopa.org).