



2025 AOPA FOUNDATION AVIATION/FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline: **February 7, 2025** | 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 estimates.*

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 9, 2024, to February 7, 2027, at 11:59 (EST)**.

Please note: If you previously applied, you must be a current AOPA member and complete a new application each year. Please submit all necessary supporting documents (recommendations included) BEFORE the application deadline (**Friday, February 7, 2025, 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 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 school year. If you are in grades 10-12, you should only include high school grades. If you are a 9th-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 9th grade. What should I do for my GPA and transcript?

If you are a 9th-grade student, middle school grades can also be included. Transcripts should show all courses taken and grades earned for each course. Transcripts also list your cumulative average.

What must I turn in with my application as a high school student?

Applicants must:

1. Complete an online application with written responses.
2. Upload your most recent high school transcript, including the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Provide two references. Both references could be from teachers, counselors, coaches, or other school officials, people who supervised you, not friends of the 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 2024-2025 school year and utilize 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 so they can become pilots.

Can I use the teacher scholarship 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 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. It consists of at least one hour of ground instruction and one hour inflight with a qualified flight instructor. However, completing 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 two references' names and email addresses. You will then download the reference forms and ask your two references to complete them. Once they return the forms, you will upload them to your application. Your application must have your two recommendations attached for your application to be complete.

*Please do not submit handwritten forms or recommendations that are not our forms.

Who can be a reference for me?

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 by you using the attached reference form on your application. No exceptions will be made.

*Please do not submit handwritten forms or recommendations that are not our forms.

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 7, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

For your application to be considered, you must also complete both recommendations. 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! Many outstanding high school students 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 will I receive the money? Will 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.