

Commercial Pilot Licence – Information Package

Choosing a Career in Aviation

Becoming a pilot is one of life's most challenging and rewarding adventures. A career in aviation is an opportunity to get paid to do what you love. Many young boys and girls dream of one day becoming an airline pilot and flying all over the world. Over a century since the early days of aviation, there is a certain awe and respect for the men and women who are at the controls of massive and complex aircraft.

Sometimes overlooked, there are also a wide variety of different careers in aviation beyond the airline environment:

- Corporate & Charter Aviation
- Forest Fire Detection and Suppression
- Flight Instruction
- Aerobatics and Air Shows
- Domestic and International Medivac
- Airborne Imaging and Surveying
- Management, Maintenance, Administration, etc.



Growing Demand

Increased international air traffic coupled with an increase in the number of pilots retiring is leading to a looming pilot shortage in the aviation industry. According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), there will be a need for 207,600 new pilots worldwide by 2018, and 352,900 by 2026. (Human Resources Study of the Commercial Pilot in Canada, 2010)

Within Canada, there have been a number of factors leading to an increased demand for pilots. With the introduction of disruptive new carriers such as WestJet and Porter, there has been an increase in the market for air travel rather than just stealing passengers from existing companies. There has also been significant growth and development in the North, resulting in increasing demand for a variety of air transportation and aviation services. As the need grows, air operators will be required to recruit more commercial pilots and aviation professionals.

According to studies, these factors are resulting in a gap between the supply of and demand for commercial pilots in Canada. It is expected that within the next 5 years, there could be a need for over 500 pilots beyond the capacity of what existing flight schools can produce. (Human Resources Study of the Commercial Pilot in Canada, 2010)

The job market for pilots in Canada is largely dependent on the need for pilots at the airline level. As large carriers increase recruitment, it causes a "pull" effect within the industry. Typically, airlines hire from regional carriers, who hire from smaller charter companies, who hire from their ramp positions or flight instructors from flight schools.

Requirements for a Career in Aviation

Medical Certificate

To become a commercial pilot in Canada, you must hold a valid Transport Canada Category 1 Aviation Medical Certificate. For this process, a thorough examination must be completed by a certified Aviation Medical Examiner. In addition to physical, auditory and visual tests, you must also undergo an electrocardiogram (ECG). Depending on your age, you will be required to complete annual or biannual examinations to maintain the validity of your medical certificate. Some major airlines have their own specific standards including psychological assessments.

Did you know... that you don't need perfect vision to become a pilot? Not being able to wear glasses is an old myth, and is not true at all. To become a pilot your vision needs to be at least 20/30 in each eye, but you are free to wear contacts or eyeglasses.

Age Requirement

There is no minimum age to start flight training. That being said, there are certain age restrictions to stages in your aviation career. For your first solo you need to be 14, to obtain your Private licence you must be 17, and to fly commercially you must be at least 18 years of age.

At the other end of the spectrum, you can fly up to any age as long as you still hold a valid medical certificate. Note that larger airlines may have mandatory retirement age limits of 60 or 65 in some cases.

Citizenship

To train in Canada, you must be a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant, or hold a student visa valid for the purposes of flight training.

To obtain a student visa, you will need to complete the application forms through Citizenship and Immigration Canada. One of the items you will require is a letter of acceptance from the educational institution where you intend to study.

Language

To undertake a career in aviation, you will need a strong command of the English language. As a result, you will be required to pass a Transport Canada Language Proficiency Test as part of your training. For those whose English is lacking, you may want to consider ESL training prior to commencing flight training.

Education

Educational background is not a prerequisite needed for obtaining Transport Canada licences and ratings. That being said, a majority of schools have a minimum requirement of high school education in order to become a commercial pilot.

Airlines often have a point-system to assess applicants for their flight crew positions. Possessing post-secondary education earns the applicant more points and increases the candidate's odds of getting the job. Some companies score further points for aviation-focused degrees or diplomas.

Typical Training Process



All pilots beginning a career in aviation must start with a Private Pilot Licence (PPL). The PPL includes at least 45 hours of flight and 40 hours of ground school training. One of the most exciting parts of this training is the student's first solo. As with all flight training, the amount of time it takes to finish the licence is dependent on a student's schedule and skill. In addition, since the cost of flight training depends on an hourly rate, there is often a range to how much it cost to complete the PPL. On average, a student completes their PPL in 50-60 flight hours and pays approximately \$10,000-\$13,000.

In order to be paid to fly, the student must continue their training toward a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). Included in CPL training is at least 65 hours of commercial flight and 80 hours of ground school training. Moreover, to obtain a CPL a student must have a total of 200 hours of flight time. In order to conduct training efficiently, most students add additional skills and ratings within those 200 hours of flight time. It is at this point the time, cost, and skills acquired can range significantly for each individual.

Most students choose to pursue a Multi-Engine rating in order to be able to fly aircraft with more than one engine. To fly an aircraft in poor weather conditions, some students decide to expand their training by including an Instrument Rating. Some students choose to pursue a flight instructor rating to increase their chances of acquiring an entry-level job in the industry. There are also a number of other ratings including endorsements for float or specific types of aircraft that may further qualify students for the career path that they intend to take.

By the time a typical student finishes their commercial training, they should expect to have invested between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

Later in a pilot's career, they will have the option of obtaining an Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). This licence does not require any specific training, but includes a number of flight hour and written examination requirements. The ATPL allows a pilot to be a captain of large commercial airliners.

COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE (CPL)



Overview

The Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) program expands on the knowledge learned in the Private Pilot Licence and gives the candidate the ability to start a career in aviation. The CPL is required to work as a pilot for a flight school, float operator, or a charter operation. It is also a required step along the path to obtaining the Airline Transport Pilot Licence.

Summary

Title – Commercial Pilot Licence

Prerequisites – Private Pilot Licence

Schedule – Part-Time or Full-Time

Intake – Continuous

Duration – Approx. 1 year or less (Full-Time)

Cost – Approximately \$15,210.00 CAD



Admission

To be eligible for admission, applicants must:

- Hold a Canadian secondary school diploma or equivalent
- Hold a Private Pilot Licence – Aeroplane
- Hold a current, valid Category 1 Canadian Aviation Medical Certificate
- Be 18 years of age or older

International Students

Applicants who are not of Canadian citizenship, a permanent resident of Canada or a dependent of a diplomat accredited to Canada must get a student authorization. Contact your nearest Canadian embassy for details. As part of the student authorization process, a Letter of Acceptance from MAG Aerospace Canada will be required. This letter will be issued once we have received verification of eligibility and an administrative deposit.

Advanced Standing

Applicants who have completed their Private Pilot Licence and additional flight instruction may apply for advanced standing. Such applicants will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of the Chief Flight Instructor.

Program of Study – Commercial Pilot Licence

The Commercial Pilot Licence program focuses on in-depth ground and flight instruction.

Ground School consists of 80 hours of in-class or online training to prepare the student for the Transport Canada written examination. Subjects to be covered include:

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- Air Law and Procedures
- Navigation and Radio Aids
- Meteorology
- Airframes, Engines and Systems
- Theory of Flight
- Flight Instruments
- Flight Operations
- Human Factors

Flight Training consists of a minimum of 65 hours of commercial flight instruction preparing the student for the Transport Canada flight test. The 65 hours must include the following minimum hour requirements:

- 35 Hours of Dual Instruction
 - 5 Hours Night (Including 2 Hours Cross-Country)
 - 5 Hours Cross-Country
 - 20 Hours Instrument Flight Time (Max 10 in Simulator)
- 30 Hours of Solo Flight Time
 - 5 Hours Night (Including 10 Takeoffs, Circuits, and Landings)
 - 300 nm Cross-Country

Note:

To be eligible for the Commercial Pilot Licence a student must have at least 200 hours total time of which not less than 100 hours must be pilot-in-command time including 20 hours cross-country pilot-in-command time.

The times listed above are Transport Canada **minimum** times required for completing the course. Completion time is based on student skill; therefore prices may increase throughout the duration of the course.

The Commercial Pilot Licence Program is a registered vocational program making it exempt from HST

International Student Fees

Please contact MAG Aerospace Canada for more information on international student fees.

Graduation

Students graduate the program when they have received letters of recommendation for both the Transport Canada written examination and flight test for the Commercial Pilot Licence.

Enrollment:

Enrollment for this program is continuous, meaning students can start flight training toward the Commercial Pilot Licence at any time. That being said, please check with MAG Aerospace Canada for the next planned ground school start date.

Options to Customize Your Training

Since the actual Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) program only consists of 65 hours of flight training and you need a total of 200 flight hours to complete your licence, there are many exciting ways to complement your training with additional, valuable experience.

Instrument Rating

Not every day is blue skies and sunshine. The Instrument Rating program gives you the required skills and knowledge to be able to fly and navigate in bad weather. Many private pilots choose to add an instrument rating to their licence and it is an important program on the way to a pilot career.

Centre-Line Thrust Multi-Engine Rating and MPIC Time Building

MAG Aerospace Canada is one of the only schools in Canada to allow a student to build multi-engine pilot-in-command time as part of their commercial training. This is completed on a Cessna C337 Skymaster. The Skymaster is designed in a centre-line thrust configuration and its similarity to the C172 allows for an easy transition into multi-engine flying.

Paid Co-Op Placements

An example of the type of positions that will be available is the Aerial Detection Observer with MAG. Aerial Detection Observers work as a team with MAG Aerospace Fire Detection Pilots as an integral part of Forest Fire and Emergency Services in Ontario. Flying in the right seat of the Cessna 337 Skymaster, Aerial Detection Observers support the process by helping spot fires.

Apply to train with MAG Aerospace Canada

If you are interested in learning more about MAG Aerospace Canada or would like to start your training with us please contact us using one of the methods listed below:

Phone: (705) 693-3346

E-mail: academy@magaero.ca

Address: 8555 Aviation Rd
Greater Sudbury Airport (CYSB)
Garson, Ontario P3L 1V4