Eligibility to Flight Train in the U.S.

Proof of eligibility to flight train in the U.S.

Prior to beginning actual flight lessons or simulator lessons, the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requires new student pilots to provide proof that they are either U.S. citizens or they must provide proof they have received TSA approval to flight train as a non-U.S. citizen.

Citizens of the United States must present either:

i. An *original* (or **certified** copy) birth certificate plus a **valid** government issued photo ID (such as a driver's license). A certified copy of a birth certificate may be obtained through [VitalCheck](#) or other providers.

   Or

ii. A **valid** U.S. passport

All *originals* (or *certified* copies of birth certificate) of these documents must be presented to Reedley College at the new student orientation the Wednesday before classes start. U.S. citizens desiring more information can look on the [AOPA website](#).

Once a U.S. citizen has provided proof of eligibility to flight train in the U.S., they do not need to provide this documentation in subsequent semesters.

International students (who are not U.S. citizens) must:

1. Review the [AOPA website](#).

2. Prior to taking any steps with the TSA, students need to specifically and separately inform the Flight Science Program Coordinator that they are not a U.S. citizen.

3. Discuss TSA requirements with the Flight Science Program Coordinator

4. Apply on the TSA website [here](#) (click on "Application Guide") for approval to receive flight training far in advance (at least 3 months) of the first day of classes.

Final TSA approval must be received by Reedley College no later than New Student Orientation or student will not be accepted for that semester.

International students must accomplish TSA updates every year.

Fresno-Yosemite International Airport ID Badge

During new student orientation (the Wednesday before classes start), students will start the application for an airport security ID badge. Application cost is approximately $75. A criminal background check will be performed as part of the application process. Generally, felony conviction or drug conviction records are cause for denial of a badge. Students must hold a valid state driver's license (state ID is not acceptable) to be approved for an airport badge.

Students who do not receive an airport security ID badge cannot take Flight lab courses at the Fresno Airport.

Maximum FAA allowable aircraft weight restrictions:

a.   There is a maximum Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) allowable weight of people and equipment that is safe and legal to fly in each airplane. Students weighing up through 220 lbs. may fly the small aircraft (PA-38) for the majority of the flight training. Students weighing 221 lbs. to 250 lbs. may fly the large aircraft (PA-28) for a higher cost. Reedley College does not have aircraft with a capacity for students over 250 lbs.

b.   All students weigh-in wearing street clothes at the new student orientation and at the beginning of each semester. If a student is close to 220 lbs. while flying the PA-38 (or close to 250 lbs. while flying the PA-28) , the student may be required to weigh-in before any flight. Students must stay below the maximum allowable weight limit or they will not be able to complete the flight lab course.

d.   See the *Student Handbook* online document for current course costs based on weight of student.