

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 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 copy 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, inform the Flight Science Program Coordinator that you are not a U.S. citizen.
3. Discuss TSA requirements with the Flight Science Program Coordinator
4. Apply with the [TSA website](#) for eligibility 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 who do not receive an airport security ID badge cannot take Flight lab courses at the 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 VFR Aircraft (PA-38) for the majority of the flight training. Students weighing over 220 lbs. but no more than 250 lbs. may substitute and fly the IFR Aircraft (PA-28) instead of the VFR Aircraft (PA-38) for a higher aircraft 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.
- c. VA benefits are only available for the lower cost VFR Aircraft (PA-38). Any student using VA benefits must pay out-of-pocket for the extra cost of the IFR Aircraft (PA-28) in most flight lab courses since these extra costs are not covered by VA benefits. See *Course Progression and Costs* document and VA Benefits document.
- d. See the *Student Handbook* document for current course costs based on weight of student.