

Documents Needed to Initially Start Flight Training

GETTING APPROVAL TO BEGIN FLIGHT TRAINING ... THE FIRST STEP TOWARD TRAINING

U.S. Citizens:

Whether native-born or naturalized, U.S. citizens must present evidence of U.S. citizenship to their flight school or instructor. Acceptable documents include:

- A valid unexpired U.S. passport (booklet or card)
- An original birth certificate (U.S., American Samoa, or Swains Island) and government-issued photo ID
- An original certification of birth abroad (Form FS-545 or DS-1350) and government-issued photo ID
- An original Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-561) and government-issued photo ID
- A Certificate of Repatriation (Form N-581) and government-issued photo ID
- An original U.S. naturalization certificate (Form N-550 or N-570) and government-issued photo ID

Foreign Citizens/Nationals:

Must register and be approved through the TSA's Flight Training Security Program (FTSP). Tourist visas are not acceptable. Most commonly accepted visa types are M-1 or F-1. Permanent residents (Green Card holders) must still apply through FTSP.

Steps to Begin Training:

1. Register with TSA at <https://www.fts.tsa.dhs.gov/home>
2. Submit:
 - Personal identification
 - Passport and visa info
 - Training details
3. Pay \$130 TSA fee and submit fingerprints

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4. Training provider verifies student through TSA
5. TSA issues Determination of Eligibility

Training must start within 180 days of TSA approval and be completed within 365 days.

Photograph Requirement:

A photo of the student must be submitted to TSA within five days of beginning training.

Why This Process Exists:

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, where attackers trained at U.S. flight schools, TSA implemented this vetting system to ensure national security.

IMPORTANT:

If training is not started or completed within the timeframe, reapplication is required (including another \$130 fee).

For Foreign Citizens:

- Must not be on a tourist visa
- Must have appropriate visa or residency
- Must apply and be approved through TSA FTSP

Start early, be organized, and follow the step-by-step instructions provided by TSA to ensure a smooth start to your flight training journey.