

Cost Breakdown for Instrument Rating (IR)

Cost Breakdown for Instrument Rating

The cost to obtain an FAA Instrument Rating typically ranges between \$11,200 and \$14,000, but this can vary based on several factors:

1. Flight Training Costs

- Aircraft rental: \$130 - \$250 per hour (depending on aircraft type)
- Average Training hours: 45-50 hours
- FAA Minimum hours: 40
- Instructor fees: \$60 - \$80 per hour
- Flight Training Cost: \$8,550 - \$16,000
- Average Flight Training Cost: \$12,000

2. Ground Instruction

- Ground school: \$300 - \$1000 (online typically \$300)
- Instructor time: Additional costs if opting for 1-on-1 instruction

3. Exam Fees

- FAA written exam: \$150
- Checkride (practical exam): \$500 - \$800 (examiner fee and aircraft rental)

4. Additional Costs

- Study materials: \$200 - \$500 (books, software, or online subscriptions)
- Simulator time: \$50 - \$100 per hour (optional but can reduce overall costs)

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5. Total Costs

- Cost Range: \$9,700 - \$18,500
- Average Cost: \$14,000

Ways to Reduce Costs

- Use a simulator for some of the flight hours.
- Select a flight school with competitive rates.