

Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) – Questions and Answers

Can I start with any of the Instructor ratings? Yes you can either start with the CFI, the CFII or the MEI. The first instructor check ride is called the **Initial**.

What's special about the Initial? Some years back only the FAA was testing CFI applicants. Today a selected number of *designated examiners* are authorized to do initials. Therefore you have to file an online application for your initial check ride.

How should I be prepared? Good preparation is very important for your CFI training and reduces costs and training time. Be sure to review all PPL, IFR and CPL theory and the theoretical knowledge of teaching and lesson planning. You even have to go beyond that and study additional references such as some Advisory Circulars, the FAR/AIM and more.

I already have a Helicopter or Glider Instructor license. Do I still need an Initial? No.

Which type of medical do I need to work as a flight instructor? You need a 3rd class medical.

Can I use the instructor rating to build up flight hours for a future airline career? Yes, you certainly can. Most pilots chose this route since it is the most economical way to move up to the 1500 hour ATP level. Each hour dual given in an aircraft can also be logged in your own logbook and counts toward your total time.

However there is one thing you have to be careful with. Don't use your hour building purpose as your only motivation to instruct. Keep in mind that a student expects full dedication and instructor engagement and doesn't necessarily like your hour building drive. Be interested and care for the student. This should be your firm policy. If you are not following this rule you might experience some adverse effects.

How much does a flight instructor earn? Flight instructors are usually paid by the hour. Wages are somewhere between \$ 18 and \$ 25 per hour for aircraft instruction or ground school.

What makes up good instructor and do I qualify for this profession?

1. Safety
2. Adequate knowledge and flying skills of yourself.
3. Your needed training and earned ratings.
4. A competent and patient teacher.
5. Using good 2-way communication and aiming for understanding rather than rote memorizing.
6. Creating a friendly, non stressful learning environment.
7. Picking up student's mistakes and correcting them adequately.
8. Positively motivating a student.
9. Caring for the student.
10. Working with a proven plan, syllabus or curriculum.