

Instrument Rating (IFR) - Questions and Answers

I don't have 50 hours Cross Country PIC time yet. Can I still start the IFR course?

Yes you can. The 50 hours Cross Country have to be completed before you take your check ride. In addition some of your IFR training time can be combined with a cross country flight. By doing so only need only about 25 cross country hours before you start the IFR course.

Can I do an IFR Course in the C152?

Weight limits permitting this is possible. Our Cessna 152 is fully IFR equipped and certified. It has two NAV/COM radios, DME and ADF.

What is the advantage of the Simulator?

Our Igate simulator is an excellent tool for approach procedures. If you do a mistake of some sort we can "freeze" the simulator, discuss the error and send you back to the point before you flubbed with one mouse click. This saves a lot of time and makes the training more efficient. Additionally the simulator is about half of the aircraft rental price.

Can I do the IFR course in a Glass Cockpit?

Absolutely. However, if you intend to fly aircraft with conventional cockpits later, we strongly recommended to do a extension course with conventional instruments after the Glass Cockpit IFR exam.

How about WAAS approaches?

WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System) - GPS approaches need a special avionics panel. Currently we have only one aircraft available that is certified for WAAS approaches - the new Cessna Turbo 182. WAAS takes an additional signal from a geostationary satellite to correct the GPS signal for errors so it can be used to nearly ILS minimums. The big advantage is that it doesn't need and ground based instruments such as localizer and glide slope transmitters. Every year the FAA publishes 500 or more WAAS Approaches even into smaller airports. Finally, WAAS approaches will replace the standard ILS approach, at least the CAT I ILS. Cat II and III ILS approaches will probably still continue to use ground equipment.

How difficult is it to upgrade to a Glass Cockpit if I already have an IFR license?

Expect about 5 hours training time in a G1000 equipped aircraft and 3 hours of ground time if you are new to the Glass Cockpit.

Can a certified IFR pilot fly in every weather?

No. Even though your IFR license allows you to fly through clouds or through areas of bad visibility, you certainly will avoid thunderstorms, icing and turbulence in a small aircraft. The IFR course teaches you about the limits and all the precautions you have to follow when flying under instrument conditions.