

Taking the FAA Practical Test

Preparing for the Checkride (Day Before)

- Get destination for cross-country flight and weight of examiner
- Plan cross-country flight to given destination
- Compute weight and balance for you and examiner in your airplane
- Check weather for cross-country flight
- Confirm flight instructor endorsements in your logbook and on student pilot certificate
- Total up every page in your logbook
- Compute totals used in 8710-1 form
- Confirm aeronautical experience requirements have been met
- Create IACRA application with your flight instructor
- Obtain aircraft logbooks
- Review aircraft logbooks for required inspections and AD compliance
- Create logbook inspection table
- Get a good night sleep

What to Bring to the Checkride

Required documents for the checkride:

- Student pilot/medical certificate
- Drivers license (or other government issued photo ID)
- Logbook
- FAA Knowledge Test results printout
- IACRA FTN #, IACRA login ID and password, copy of 8710-1 form
- Check to pay examiner

Resources to use during the oral ground review:

- Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
- Airplane Flying Handbook
- FAR/AIM
- Airman Certification Standards (ACS)
- POH for your training airplane

What to Bring to the Checkride (Continued)

Things you need for the flying portion

- Flight bag, headset, sunglasses, kneeboard
- Weight and balance calculations
- Cross-country flight calculations log sheet
- Current VFR Sectional Charts and Terminal Area Charts with your route drawn
- Current Chart Supplement
- IFR hood or other view-limiting device

Morning of Checkride

- Check weather for cross-country flight
- Update cross-country flight calculations based on forecast winds/temps
- Perform preflight inspection and note fuel levels
- Verify aircraft airworthiness

What Happens During the Checkride

- Examiner arrives. Introductions
- Examiner reviews the role of the examiner during the flight and the 3 possible practical test outcomes: pass, fail (disapproval), or discontinuance
- Examiner reviews IACRA application, student ID, and certificates
- Examiner reviews student pilot logbook for endorsements and required aeronautical experience
- Ground review begins covering all manner of aviation knowledge. This could last anywhere from 20 minutes to 3 hours depending on the student's knowledge and/or ability to find information in the reference sources
- Flight portion begins, typically beginning with takeoffs and landings at the airport. Soft-field takeoffs and landings. Short-field takeoffs and landings. Go arounds. Power-off approaches.
- Departure for cross-country portion of the flight. Start clock on departure, and fly to first one or two checkpoints to show your ability to use dead reckoning.
- Diversion to another airport.
- Discussion of systems failures.
- Discussion of lost procedures.
- Use of radio navigation equipment.
- Aerial maneuvers. Slow flight, stalls, steep turns, ground reference maneuvers.
- Simulated engine failure in flight.
- Return to home airport