



Tampa Bay Aviation Association Flight Training Scholarship Program

The Tampa Bay Aviation Association (TBAA) is offering Flight Training Scholarships (FTS) for qualified students in 2027. The procedures herein will cover:

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I. Scholarship Description

The TBAA FTS program is designed to use funds generated from its programs to inspire young men and women in the Tampa Bay region to become pilots. Scholarships are planned to be awarded in amounts of up to \$10,000 each. Applicants for the TBAA FTS will undergo a review process to confirm their eligibility and commitment to completing all requirements to earn a Private Pilot License (PPL). A Scholarship Coordinator will be assigned to oversee all applicants, recipients and their progress, and additional mentors will be available to help guide recipients to a successful completion. A Scholarship Committee made up of TBAA Board of Directors members and/or appointees will maintain oversight of the program, and a group of qualified mentors will be available to guide and support recipients through all phases of flight training to ensure their best chances of a successful PPL Completion or advanced ratings if applicable.

For initial PPL Training, the scholarship funding will be approved in two phases. The first phase will fund up to \$5000 to the recipient to complete their first solo flight, then after an additional review the student will be awarded the remaining funds up to an additional \$5000 to apply toward completing their PPL. Scholarships awarded to students who apply for advanced training will be administered on a case-by-case basis (*see Section VI*). ***It should be noted that any student's flight training costs may exceed the award limit. In this case the student will need to fund any remaining training costs themselves.***

FTS Solo: Applicants will be evaluated on an initial application and interview process. Once awarded, recipients will have up to \$5,000 available to complete the first solo flight and written exam. The Scholarship Coordinator will monitor progress, communicating regularly with students and their families to provide guidance. The Scholarship Coordinator will approve and distribute all funds to the chosen flight training facility directly. The student will have six months from the start of flight training to complete both their first solo flight and the FAA Private Pilot written exam. The remaining funds from the initial \$5,000 will remain in the student's account to be applied to the next phase.

FTS PPL: After soloing, the student will be eligible to apply for the remainder of the scholarship funds. Once a recipient has completed their PPL, any remaining funds may be applied toward additional flight training



upon approval. Again, TBAA does not guarantee that the scholarship award will completely cover the total cost of the student's PPL. If the student's training costs exceed this amount, the student is responsible for funding those costs. Students not completing the solo within the six-month limit will be required to complete a review before scholarship funding can continue and may be subject to scholarship cancellation.

II. Applicant Eligibility

General: All applicants must be a US Citizen, be able to fluently read, write, speak, and understand the English language, and have reliable transportation.

Medical: All applicants must be able to pass a Class III Medical Examination per 14 CFR § 61.23 within 30 days of scholarship award notification. IT IS BETTER TO COMPLETE THE MEDICAL EXAM PRIOR TO THE AWARD DATE IF POSSIBLE.

Age: Applicants for the TBAA FTS will be required to be at least 16 years of age and not older than 20 years of age at the time of application. All applicants under the age of 18 must have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

Education: Applicants must be enrolled in or recently graduated from an approved secondary educational program that fulfills all state requirements for a high school diploma. Proof of a grade point average of 3.0 (unweighted) or higher is required and must be maintained through the duration of the FTS process. GED recipients may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Aviation Related: Applicants who have received prior flight training will be able to count their instructor-approved time toward completion of their PPL. **APPLICANTS MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE FAA PRIVATE PILOT WRITTEN EXAM WITH A SCORE OF 70% or greater to be considered.** If approved, FTS funding may be used to reimburse the written exam expenses retroactively after the FTS is awarded. Candidates must complete a successful Discovery Flight at their own expense of at least 30 minutes in a small general aviation aircraft with a certified flight instructor prior to being considered for the scholarship.

III. Application Process

Applications for this year's program will be accepted between September 1st, 2026 and January 15th, 2027.

Submission

Applicants will be required to submit the PPL Flight Training application packet found on TBAA event websites at <https://planestrainsautospc.org/Scholarships.html> or <https://galatampabay.com/Scholarships.html>. All applications must be sent via email to [their](#) respective addresses prior to midnight, January 1st, 2027. Applications received via any other means or outside of this window will not be accepted or considered. In the case that applications are received incomplete or inaccurate, applicants will be notified electronically. Applicants will be told why their application was not acceptable and offered a chance to resubmit prior to the window closing if time allows.



Optional Application Interviews

Applicants who meet the requirements may be invited in for a “face to face” interview with the Scholarship Coordinator via Zoom. The Scholarship Coordinator will notify the applicant electronically and provide a date, time, and location for the “face to face” interview if one is deemed necessary.

Final Application Review and Notification

A minimum of three Board of Directors Scholarship Committee members must participate in the final selection of recipients. A majority of Yes votes will be required for an applicant to be approved for a scholarship. In the event of a tie, the Scholarship Coordinator will cast the deciding vote.

Applicants will be notified of their status as accepted or denied of the scholarship by February 15th, 2027. All finalists will be required to complete a successful Discovery Flight Certificate at their own expense in a small General Aviation aircraft with a Certified Flight Instructor prior to being awarded a scholarship. Finalists will also be required to successfully obtain a 3rd Class Medical within 30 days of scholarship award.

IV. Flight School Selection / Funds Administration

The decision on which flight school to use rests solely with the scholarship recipient. The Scholarship Coordinator may assist in finding a suitable school upon request by the FTS student. The selected training facility will be required to complete a qualification application and abide by its provisions. The Scholarship Coordinator will approve all payments for the FTS student directly from TBAA to the flight school. No funds will be apportioned to the student directly. Flight training organizations wishing to become preferred providers should contact Greg Gibson at greg@tailwindonline.com for more information. TBAA will keep a list of preferred Tampa Bay area providers and make this available to scholarship recipients for consideration upon request.

V. PPL Completion

Once a scholarship recipient has achieved soloing an aircraft, they become eligible to apply for the remaining funds to complete their PPL. Recipients are required to notify the Scholarship Coordinator within 7 days of completing the solo to schedule an interview. *Solo flight MUST be completed within 6 months of the beginning of the flight training under the scholarship funding. Exceptions can be considered for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.*

Once the interview is completed, the Scholarship Coordinator will review the results with the TBAA Board of Directors Scholarship Committee and make a recommendation to either approve or deny the continuation of the scholarship. The results of this decision will be given to the applicant within 7 days of the interview. If denied, the applicant will be given the reasons for the denial, and at the discretion of the Board of Directors Scholarship Committee and the Scholarship Coordinator may be given an opportunity to remediate the issues that resulted in the denial.



If approved, the recipient will continue flight training within 30 days. The Scholarship Coordinator will continue to monitor, record, and manage the finances of the FTS PPL process until depleted. *The PPL must be completed within one year of the first lesson conducted under the scholarship funding. Exceptions can be considered for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Scholarships may be suspended or revoked for failing to complete the required elements within the prescribed timelines. Communication is key; failing to communicate with the flight school or scholarship coordinator as required may result in suspension or revocation of the Flight Training scholarship.

VI. Advanced Flight Training Considerations

Applicants who have completed their PPL prior to applying for a TBAA scholarship may apply to utilize the scholarship for instrument or commercial training. Awards are allocated at the sole discretion of the TBAA committee and will be based upon merit and eligibility as deemed appropriate.

VII. Remaining Funds Management

Any funds remaining in the recipient's account once the PPL is completed may be used for additional flight ratings or endorsements. The Scholarship Coordinator will work with the recipient to source and manage the remaining funds until depleted.