



PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

2027

Tampa Bay Aviation Association Flight Training Scholarship Program

2027 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Planes, Trains & Automobiles Flight Training Scholarship | PPL & Advanced Training

Purpose: These Policies & Procedures govern the 2027 Planes, Trains & Automobiles Flight Training Scholarship and are aligned with the requirements stated in the 2027 scholarship application.

I. SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION & FUNDING

The Tampa Bay Aviation Association (TBAA) Flight Training Scholarship program uses funds generated through TBAA programs and events to encourage qualified young people in the Tampa Bay region to pursue aviation careers through flight training.

Applicants may seek funding for initial training toward an FAA Private Pilot License (PPL) or, if already a certificated private pilot, for approved advanced training such as an Instrument Rating or Commercial Pilot Certificate.

Scholarships may be awarded in amounts up to \$10,000 each. The number and value of awards depend on available funding and the number and quality of qualified applicants. An award is not guaranteed to cover the entire cost of the training sought; costs beyond the scholarship amount are the recipient's responsibility.

Initial PPL funding. Up to \$5,000 may be authorized through first solo. After solo, the recipient's progress will be reviewed before the balance of the approved scholarship, up to the \$10,000 total award limit, is released for continued PPL training.

Advanced training funding. Awards for applicants who already hold a PPL and seek instrument, commercial, or other approved advanced flight training will be administered on a case-by-case basis. The PPL first-solo funding structure does not apply.

A Scholarship Coordinator will oversee applications, recipient progress, and scholarship funds. The TBAA Scholarship Committee, composed of Board members and/or appointees, will provide program oversight. Mentors may be assigned to support recipients during training.

II. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- **Age:** Applicants must be at least 16 and not older than 20 at the time of application. Applicants under 18 require parent or legal guardian consent.
- **Residency:** Applicants must currently live or maintain a permanent address in the Tampa Bay Area. For this scholarship, the Tampa Bay Area includes Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, Polk, Citrus, Highlands, Hardee, and Sarasota Counties.
- **Citizenship and language:** Applicants must be U.S. citizens and able to read, write, speak, and understand English proficiently.
- **Education and GPA:** Applicants must be enrolled in, or recently graduated from, an approved secondary educational program and must document an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 3.0 unweighted GPA must be maintained through the scholarship process. GED recipients may be considered case by case.

- **Medical:** Applicants must hold a valid FAA medical certificate appropriate to the training sought. At minimum, an FAA Class III Medical Certificate will be required.
- **Transportation:** Applicants must have reliable transportation to support consistent flight training.

Initial PPL applicants. Applicants must complete the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test before applying and score at least 70%. They must also complete, at their own expense, a successful Discovery Flight of at least 30 minutes in a small general aviation aircraft with a Certified Flight Instructor before being considered for an award. Instructor-approved prior flight time may be credited toward PPL completion.

Advanced-training applicants. Applicants must already hold an FAA Private Pilot Certificate and submit a copy with the application. Applications for Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot Certificate, or other advanced flight training will be evaluated case by case based on merit, eligibility, training goals, and available funding.

III. APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be accepted from September 1, 2026 through January 15, 2027. Complete applications must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on January 15, 2027.

Submission method. Applications must be submitted by email only to greg@tailwindonline.com. Mail, hand delivery, drop-off, or other submission methods will not be accepted. A single Adobe PDF containing the application and required attachments is strongly preferred.

All applicants must submit the completed application, personal statement essay, recent color photo, current FAA medical certificate, most recent official scholastic record/report documenting the required GPA, volunteer/community service verification if applicable, and one recommendation letter from an instructor or employer dated within 30 days of application.

Initial PPL applicants must also submit the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test report showing a score of at least 70% and verification of the required Discovery Flight. Advanced-training applicants must instead submit a copy of their FAA Private Pilot Certificate and any additional certificates or ratings held.

Incomplete or inaccurate applications may be rejected. When time permits before the application deadline, applicants may be notified electronically of correctable deficiencies and permitted to resubmit.

Interviews. Qualified applicants may be invited to a face-to-face interview conducted by Zoom or another designated method. Interview details will be provided electronically.

Final selection. A minimum of three Scholarship Committee members must participate in final selection. A majority affirmative vote is required for an award. In the event of a tie, the Scholarship Coordinator may cast the deciding vote.

Notification. Applicants will be notified of their selection status by February 15, 2027. Scholarship recipients are expected to be recognized at Planes, Trains & Automobiles on Saturday, February 27, 2027, at Plant City Airport.

IV. FLIGHT SCHOOL SELECTION & FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

The scholarship recipient is responsible for selecting a flight school. The Scholarship Coordinator may assist in identifying suitable training providers upon request.

The selected training facility must complete any TBAA qualification or participation documentation required by the Scholarship Coordinator and agree to the program's payment and reporting provisions.

Scholarship funds will be paid directly by TBAA to the approved flight school or training provider. No scholarship funds will be paid directly to the student.

The Scholarship Coordinator will approve scholarship expenditures and may request invoices, account statements, training records, or other documentation needed to monitor appropriate use of funds.

V. INITIAL PPL TRAINING PROGRESS & COMPLETION

First solo. PPL recipients must complete first solo within six months of beginning flight training under scholarship funding. Exceptions may be considered for documented extenuating circumstances.

Post-solo review. Recipients must notify the Scholarship Coordinator within seven days of first solo. A progress review and, if requested, an interview will be completed before continuation funding is authorized.

Continuation decision. The Scholarship Coordinator will review progress with the Scholarship Committee and recommend approval, conditional continuation, remediation, suspension, or termination. The recipient will normally receive the decision within seven days after the review.

PPL completion deadline. The PPL should be completed within one year of the first lesson conducted under scholarship funding. Exceptions may be considered for documented extenuating circumstances.

IMPORTANT: Scholarships may be suspended or revoked for failure to meet required milestones, failure to maintain the required GPA or other eligibility, misuse of funds, or repeated failure to communicate with the flight school or Scholarship Coordinator.

VI. ADVANCED FLIGHT TRAINING

Advanced-training recipients must pursue the training identified in the approved scholarship application unless a change is approved in writing by the Scholarship Coordinator.

Funding schedules, progress milestones, training deadlines, and any continuation reviews for advanced training will be established case by case based on the rating or certificate sought, the recipient's experience level, the training provider's program, and the amount awarded.

Recipients must maintain regular communication with the Scholarship Coordinator and provide training or financial documentation when requested. Advanced-training awards may be suspended or revoked for failure to maintain eligibility, insufficient progress, misuse of funds, or failure to communicate.

VII. REMAINING FUNDS MANAGEMENT

If funds remain after a recipient completes the training for which the scholarship was awarded, the Scholarship Coordinator may approve use of the remaining balance for additional flight training, ratings, or endorsements. Any such use is discretionary, must remain aviation-training related, and will continue to be paid directly to an approved training provider.

Unused or unapproved funds remain with TBAA and may be returned to the scholarship program for future awards.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION & EXCEPTIONS

TBAA reserves the right to interpret these Policies & Procedures, verify information submitted by an applicant or recipient, and make reasonable administrative adjustments when necessary to protect the integrity and purpose of the scholarship program.

Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the Scholarship Coordinator and will be considered case by case. No exception is automatic, and decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

Application contact: greg@tailwindonline.com | planestrainsautospc.org

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