

Commercial Helicopter Add On

Training Syllabus



Last Updated: 2025.03.02

FAA-S-ACS-16 Rev November 2023

This syllabus covers the tasks and knowledge required for adding a commercial pilot certificate RH category to an airplane commercial pilot via part 61.

This is focused on single engine helicopters with Skid type landing gear

ACS Task List

From Add on Task Table (for commercial airplane or gyro pilots)

Area of Operation	Tasks to Perform
I - Preflight Preparation	E, F, G
II- Preflight Procedures	All
III- Airport/Heliport Operations	A, C
IV- Hovering Maneuvers	All (exclude D if using skids)
V- Takeoffs, Landings, Go-arounds	All (exclude E if using skids)
VI- Performance Maneuvers	A plus 1
VII- Navigation	None
VIII- Emergency Operations	All, (G, H, I, J Oral only)
IX- Special Operations	All
X- Postflight Procedures	All

Part 61 Requirements:

61.129 Aeronautical Experience

(c) For a helicopter rating. Except as provided in [paragraph \(i\)](#) of this section, a person who applies for a commercial pilot certificate with a rotorcraft category and helicopter class rating must log at least 150 hours of flight time as a pilot that consists of at least:

100 hours in powered aircraft, of which 50 hours must be in helicopters.

- 100 hours of pilot-in-command flight time, which includes at least—
 - 35 hours in helicopters; and
 - 10 hours in cross-country flight in helicopters.
- 20 hours of training on the areas of operation listed in [§ 61.127\(b\)\(3\) of this part](#) that includes at least—
 - Five hours on the control and maneuvering of a helicopter solely by reference to instruments using a view-limiting device including attitude instrument flying, partial panel skills, recovery from unusual flight attitudes, and intercepting and tracking navigational systems. This aeronautical experience may be performed in an aircraft, full flight simulator, flight training device, or an aviation training device;
 - One 2-hour cross country flight in a helicopter in daytime conditions that consists of a total straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure;
 - One 2-hour cross country flight in a helicopter in nighttime conditions that consists of a total straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure; and
 - Three hours in a helicopter with an authorized instructor in preparation for the practical test within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test.
- Ten hours of solo flight time in a helicopter or 10 hours of flight time performing the duties of pilot in command in a helicopter with an authorized instructor on board (either of which may be credited towards the flight time requirement under [paragraph \(c\)\(2\)](#) of this section), on the areas of operation listed under [§ 61.127\(b\)\(3\)](#) that includes—
 - One cross-country flight with landings at a minimum of three points, with one segment consisting of a straight-line distance of at least 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure; and
 - 5 hours in night VFR conditions with 10 takeoffs and 10 landings (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern).

Ground Lessons

Date

ACS Topic

Preflight Preparation (Area of Operation I)

- National Airspace System
- Performance and Limitations
- Operation of Systems

Preflight Procedures (Area of Operation II)

- Preflight Assessment
- Flight Deck Management
- Powerplant and Rotor Engagement
- Before Takeoff Check

Airport and Heliport Operations (Area of Operation III)

- Heliport/Helipad Signs, Markings, and Lighting
- Traffic Patterns

Hovering Maneuvers (Area of Operation IV)

- Vertical Takeoff and Landing
- Hover Taxi
- Air Taxi
- Slope Operations

Takeoffs, Landings, and Go-Arounds (Area of Operation V)

- Normal Takeoff and Climb
- Normal and Crosswind Approach
- Max Performance Takeoff
- Steep Approach
- Shallow Approach and Run On Landing
- Go-Around

Performance Maneuvers (Area of Operation VI)

- Rapid Deceleration/Quick Stop
- Straight in Auto Rotation
- Autorotation with Turns

Emergency Operations (Area of Operation VII)

- Powerplant failure in hover
- Powerplant failure at altitude
- Systems and equipment malfunctions
- Vortex Ring State (VRS)
- Low Rotor RPM Recognition and Recovery
- Antitorque system failure
- Dynamic Rollover
- Ground Resonance
- Low G Recognition and Recovery
- Emergency equipment and survival gear
- Flight solely by reference to instruments
- Recovery from unusual attitudes

Special Operations (Area of Operation IX)

- Confined Area Operations
- Pinnacle Operations

Hovering Maneuvers (Area of Operation X)

- After landing, Parking, and Securing

Flight Lessons

Oral Review Topics:

Dynamic Rollover
 Ground Resonance
 Low G Recovery
 Emergency Equipment and Survival Gear

Every Flight:

Powerplant Starting and Rotor Engagement
 Before Takeoff Checks
 Airport markings, lights, etc
 Traffic Patterns
 Vertical Takeoff and Landing
 After Landing, Securing, Parkings

I - Introduce (Demo and Repeat)
 P- Guided Practice
 √ - Demonstrated proficient level

Phase 1 - ~10 hours

Basic Maneuvers

<i>Flight</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Date(s)</i>									
Powerplant/Rotor	I	P	P	P					
Before TO Checks	I	P	P	P					
Traffic Patterns	I	P	P	P					
Pickup/Setdowns	I	P	P	P	P	P			
Hover Taxi	I	P	P	P	P	P			
Basic Airwork	I	P	P						
Normal Dep		I	P	P	P	P			
Normal Appch		I	P	P	P	P			
Go Around				I	P	P			
Air Taxi				I	P	P			

Notes:

Phase 2 ~15 hours
Advanced Maneuvers

<i>Flight</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Date(s)</i>									
Normal Dep	P								
Normal Appch	P								
Go-Around	P								
Precision Hover	I								
X-Wind Appch	I	P							
Max P Dep	I	P							
Glide	I	P							
Steep Appch		I	P						
Slope Ops		I	P						
Rapid Decel		I	P						
Shallow Appch			I	P					
Auto- Straight			I	P					
Tail Rotor Failure			I	P					
Auto- Hover				I	P				
Auto- Turning					I	P			
Sys/Equip Fail					I	P			
Vortex Ring State					I	P			
Low Rot RPM Rec					I	P			
Confined Ops						I	P		
Pinnacle Ops						I	P		
Flight Inst Ref							I	P	
Unusual Attitude							I	P	

Phase 2 notes:

Phase 3 ~15 hours
Review, Solo, and Cross Countries

<i>Flight</i>	Solo	Dual	Solo	Dual	Solo	Dual	Solo	Dual	Dual
<i>Date(s)</i>									
Normal Dep	P		P	P	P		P		
Normal Appch	P		P	P	P		P		
Go-Around	P								
Precision Hover	P					P	P		
X-Wind Appch		P							
Max P Dep		P	P			P			
Glide		P	P						
Steep Appch		P	P				P		
Slope Ops		P				P			
Rapid Decel		P				P	P		
Shallow Appch				P					
Auto- Straight		P		P		P			
Tail Rotor Failure				P					
Auto- Hover		P				P			
Auto- Turning				P					
Sys/Equip Fail						P			
Vortex Ring State				P					
Low Rot RPM Rec				P					
Confined Ops		P				P			
Pinnacle Ops						P			
Flight Inst Ref		P		P		P			
Unusual Attitude				P		P			
X/C				P	P	P	P		

Phase 3 Notes: