

Quick Comparison of Pilot Certificates			
Type of Operations or Privileges	Private Pilot	Recreational Pilot	Sport Pilot
Requires FAA Medical Certificate	Yes	Yes	Medical or U.S. driver's license and self certification
Aircraft Size Limitations	Unlimited (certain aircraft will require specific type ratings)	180 HP max 4 seats max	1,320 lb. max certificated gross weight 2 seats max
Aircraft with Retractable Landing Gear	Yes	No	No
More than one passenger may be carried	Yes	No	No
Minimum flight training time required under FAR Part 61	40 hours (based on reported averages, it typically takes 70 hours)	30 hours (based on reported averages it typically takes 44 hours)	20 hours (using the Private and Recreational averages, it could take up to 33 hours)
Flight in Class B, C or D airspace	Yes	Only with additional flight instruction	Only with additional flight instruction
Night Flight	Yes	Yes. No passengers and under CFI supervision to obtain additional certificates/ratings	No
Flight outside United States airspace	Yes	No	No
Less than 3 miles visibility	Yes, in uncontrolled airspace	No	No
Sightseeing flights benefiting a charity or community	Yes	No	No
Please consult the current regulations for specific details on regulatory compliance			