

IACRA Tips & Suggestions

Updated: March 18, 2025

To the applicant:

The information in this document is not meant to be a complete guide for using IACRA. Instead, this is supplemental information that I am providing to help you correctly complete your IACRA application before each practical test (AKA checkride). Your flight instructor should also use this document to carefully check your application before signing it. My hope is that this will save valuable time and reduce your stress at the beginning of each checkride.

There are several other important items that are not addressed in this document because I usually find those items to be completed correctly.

Links to official IACRA help documents are available at: <https://iacra.faa.gov/>

Please [contact me](#) if you have questions, corrections, or other comments related to this document.

Thank you!

Jim Pitman, DPE

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The tips and suggestions below are based on the **red letters** shown in this graphic:

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration		Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application															
I. APPLICATION INFORMATION (Mark 'X' in all the blocks applicable to the certificate or rating for which you are applying):																	
Certificates			Ratings					Other Information/Requests									
Pilot: ☐ Student ☐ Recreational ☐ Flight ☐ Private ☐ Commercial ☐ Ground ☐ ATP-Restricted ☐ ATP			Instructor: ☐ ASE ☐ AME ☐ Land ☐ Sea ☐ Helicopter ☐ Balloon ☐ Glider ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Airship ☐ Powered-Lift Type Rating: ☐ Added Rating		Instrument: ☐ Airplane ☐ Basic ☐ Helicopter ☐ Advanced ☐ Powered-Lift ☐ Instrument		Ground Instructor: ☐ Initial ☐ Reexamination ☐ Instrument Proficiency Check ☐ Renewal ☐ Reissuance ☐ Medical Flight Test ☐ Reinstatement ☐ Flight Review ☐ Limitation Removal Specify other: ☐ IPL										
A. Name (Last, First, Middle) A			B. SSN (US Only) B		C. Date of Birth mm/dd/yyyy		D. Place of Birth (City and State) or (City and Country) C										
E1. Residential Address (Including City, State, Zip Code, and Country) D			E2. Mailing Address (This address will be printed on the permanent airman certificate, if different than block E1.)			F. Citizenship / Nationality ☐ USA ☐ Other specify:		G. Do you read, speak, write, & understand the English language? ☐ Yes ☐ No									
M. Do you hold, or have you ever held an FAA pilot certificate? ☐ Yes ☐ No			M1. Grade of Certificate		M2. Certificate Number		M3. Date Issued										
N. Do you hold, or have you ever held a Medical Certificate? ☐ Yes - FAA ☐ Yes - Foreign ☐ Yes - Military ☐ No			N1. Class of Certificate		N2. Name of Medical Examiner F		N3. Date Issued										
O. Have you ever been convicted for violation of any Federal or State statutes relating to narcotic drugs, marijuana, or depressant or stimulant drugs or substances? Do not include alcohol offenses involving motor vehicle mode of transportation as those offenses are covered on the FAA Form 8500-8, Airman Medical Application Form. ☐ Yes ☐ No							O1. Date of Final Conviction										
II. CERTIFICATE OR RATING APPLIED FOR ON BASIS OF:																	
☐ A. Completion of Test or Activity		1. Aircraft to be used (if flight test required) G			2. Total time in this aircraft and/or approved FFS or FTD (hours):		a. Flight Time H		b. As Pilot-in-Command I								
☐ B. U.S. Military Competence or Experience		1. U.S. Military Service			2. Date Rated in U.S. Military		3. Rank or Grade										
☐ C. Graduate of an Approved Course J		1. Training Agency or Training Center: 1a. Name 1b. Location (City and State) 1c. Certification Number 1d. Part 142? ☐ Yes ☐ No			2. Curriculum From Which Graduated (Level, Category, and Class and/or Type Rating)		3. Date										
☐ D. Holder of Foreign License		1. Country that Issued the Foreign Pilot License			2. Grade of Foreign Pilot License		3. Foreign Pilot License Number										
☐ E. Air Carrier Training Program		1. Name of Air Carrier			2. Date Training Began		3. Accomplished Training Program ☐ Initial ☐ Upgrade ☐ Transition ☐ Recurrent										
III. RECORD OF PILOT TIME (Do not write in the shaded areas)																	
	Total	Instruction Received	Solo	PIC and SIC	Cross Country Instruction Received	Cross Country Solo	Cross Country PIC/SIC	Instrument	Night Instruction Received	Night Take-Off / Landing	Night PIC/SIC	Night Take-Off/Landing PIC/SIC	Number of				
Airplanes	K	L	M	N			PIC SIC	O			PIC SIC	PIC SIC	Gliders	Flights	Aero-Tows	Ground Launches	Powered Launches
Rotorcraft				PIC SIC			PIC SIC				PIC SIC	PIC SIC	Lighter-than-air				
Powered Lift				PIC SIC			PIC SIC				PIC SIC	PIC SIC					
Gliders				PIC SIC			PIC SIC				PIC SIC	PIC SIC					
Lighter-Than-Air				PIC SIC			PIC SIC				PIC SIC	PIC SIC					
FFS																	
FTD	Q	R						S									
ATD																	
IV. Have you previously received a Notice of Disapproval or been denied for any reason for the certificate AND/OR rating for which you are applying? ☐ Yes ☐ No																	
V. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION: I certify that all statements and answers provided by me on this application form are complete and true to the best of my knowledge and I agree that they are to be considered as part of the basis for issuance of any FAA certificate to me. I have received the Pilot's Bill of Rights Written Notification of Investigation that accompanies this form. I have also read and understand the Privacy Act statement that accompanies this form.																	
Signature of Applicant								Date mm/dd/yyyy									

A

The IACRA and 8710-1 instructions both clearly state that airmen are to enter their “Full Legal Name” on every application. This means abbreviations and initials are not acceptable. If one or more of your middle names is a letter (not an abbreviation), that is fine. Some DPEs are better at checking this than others. Just because something worked in the past does not necessarily mean it will be okay for future checkrides.

You must have a valid (unexpired) government-issued photo ID that shows your FULL legal name. Driver’s licenses often include nicknames and abbreviations. That is not acceptable for FAA purposes. Passports should always include your full legal name, but they sometimes do not. Please check all of this carefully before scheduling your checkride.

A change to your legal name must be [processed by your local FSDO](#) before your checkride.

Please contact your DPE as soon as possible if you have questions/concerns about your name or ID.

B

The SSN is not required. If you have one, I suggest checking the box in IACRA that says, “Do Not Use.”

C

Be sure to enter your place of birth, not your current place of residence.

D

Enter your current residential address. If you have moved since your last FAA application was submitted, you should update your address at https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/update_address/ per FAR 61.60 before submitting an application.

E

Ensure these items are correct and match your previously issued FAA certificate. It’s okay for your weight to fluctuate, but your height, hair color, eye color, and sex should match.

F

Ensure this matches exactly what is printed on your medical certificate.

G

Items F, G, and H are about the aircraft being used for your checkride. This row corresponds to section 2 of the IACRA application. If using a Cessna 172 for the checkride, I recommend searching for “CE-172” and then selecting the first one on the list (CE-172-172). This option is best because it represents all models of 172s.

H

This is your total flight time in the make/model of airplane entered for item G. If all of your flight experience is in this type of airplane, this number should be the same as item K.

I

This is your total PIC time in the make/model of airplane entered for item G. If all of your flight experience is in the same type of airplane, this number should be the same as item N.

J

If you graduated from a part 141 course, ensure all of the information in this section (including the graduation date) matches your signed graduation certificate. Be sure to also bring that signed certificate to your checkride.

Items K through T correspond to section 5 of the IACRA application. It’s a bit confusing, but basically each column in section 5 of IACRA corresponds to one of the rows shown on the printed application.

K

This is your total time in all types of airplanes. If you have flown more than one make/model, this number should be larger than the number entered for item H.

If you are a private pilot applicant on your first checkride: $K \text{ should} = L + M$

If you have done one or more checkride flights (PIC, but not dual or solo) in the past and have not done any other non-training flights (not dual/solo): $L + M + \text{your checkride flights, should} = K$

L

Enter total instruction received in all **airplanes**. This number must be smaller than item J. **Do not include sim time** (ATD or FTD) here. It’s okay to log sim time as dual instruction in your logbook, but you need to subtract that out before entering this number.

M

Solo = Sole occupant of the aircraft. Only enter the time that you flew by yourself.

N

This includes all time that you *acted* as PIC and all time that you *logged* PIC. [Here's a good article](#) that explains what that means.

If you are a private pilot applicant on your first checkride, N will be the same as M.

O

This is all instrument time in **airplanes** (simulated + actual). **Do not include sim time** (ATD or FTD) here.

P

This is all PIC time in single-engine land (SEL) airplanes. For applicants who have not yet flown multiengine planes, this should be the same as item N.

Note: The ForeFlight 8710 report currently shows total time for this item, but the IACRA application is asking for PIC time.

Q

Only log time in FAA approved sims. If you used one or more sims during your training, you need to determine if they are an FAA approved ATD or FTD. The differences are confusing, but important. Your instructor and/or school manager should be able to help. There should also be an FAA letter of authorization (LOA) with each approved sim. Enter the total sim time in the appropriate box. Leave blank if you have zero sim time.

R

This is total dual instruction received in the sim (ATD and/or FTD). For most applicants, it will be the same as item Q. Leave blank if you have zero sim time.

S

This is time in the sim (ATD and/or FTD) when instrument conditions were being simulated. If your instructor always started the sim and put it right in instrument conditions, or only logged the time you were flying in instrument conditions, this number may be the same at Q and R. Otherwise, this number should be something less than Q and R. Leave blank if you have zero sim time.

T

Enter the total single engine (SE) time in the sim (ATD and/or FTD). For most applicants, this will be the same at items Q and R. Leave blank if you have zero sim time.

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