



LEADING  
EDGE

FLIGHT ACADEMY

# HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING

UPDATED FEBRUARY 18, 2026

# GET TO KNOW LEADING EDGE FLIGHT ACADEMY

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## **FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS, WE'VE HELPED OUR STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR PROFESSIONAL PILOT CAREERS.**

As an FAA Part 141 approved flight training program, we can get you to your next aviation goal in less time and lower cost. Students who excel will have the opportunity to become flight instructors at Leading Edge, becoming an integral part of our strong leadership and safety culture.

We do not just train students to be skilled pilots; we coach them to be great employees. Our standards instill expectations that translate to real-world hireability. We aren't a "pilot mill" turning out cookie-cutter pilots—we train professional aviators. That's our goal and why our industry partners seek out our pilots year after year.

## **BEND, OR: THE BEST PLACE TO FLY AND LIVE**

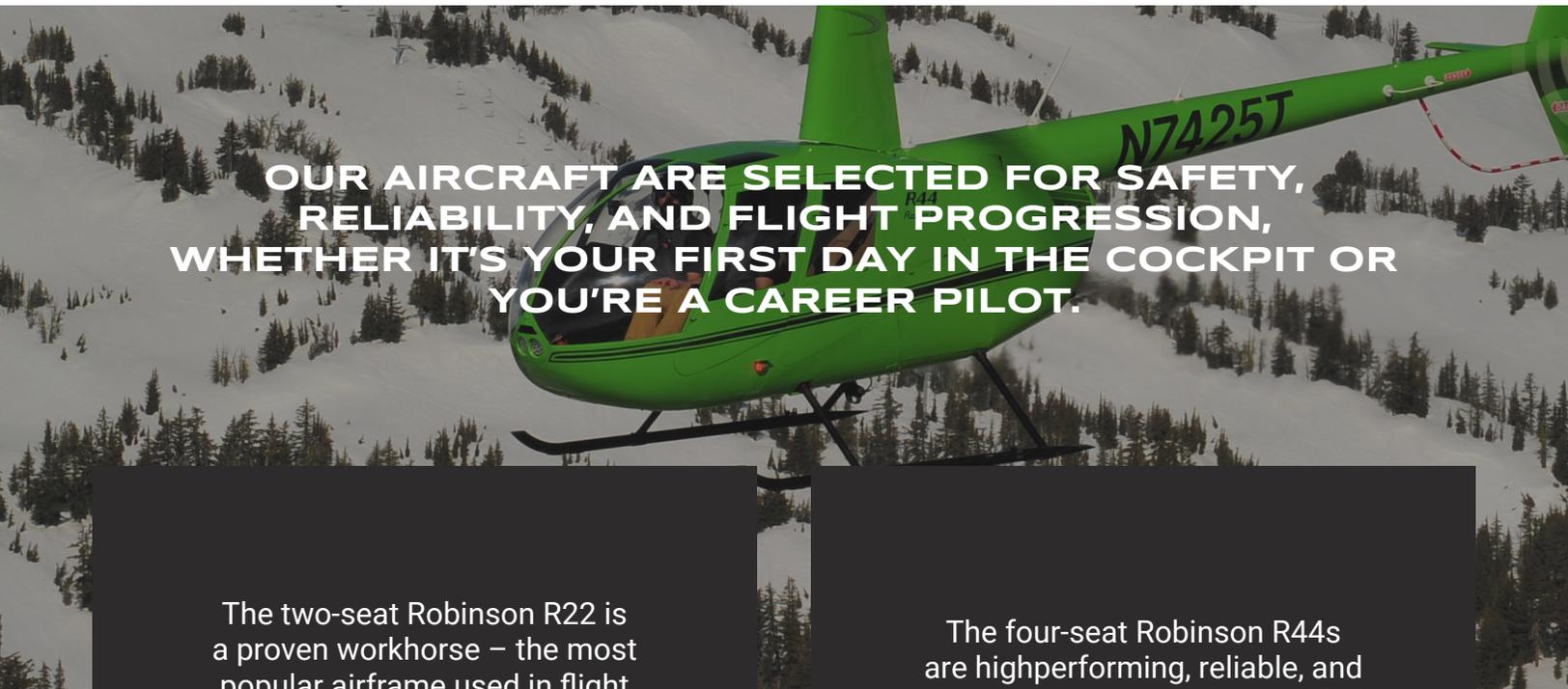
Bend ranks in the top 10 places to live in the US. It's an outdoor mecca, home to world-famous mountain biking, snowboarding, skiing, rock-climbing, kayaking and more. It's also the perfect place to learn to fly. You'll gain firsthand experience navigating four weather seasons and multiple training environments ranging from mountains, high desert, and along the Pacific coast. You'll also have quick access to multiple airspace options during cross country flights.



"After completing my flight training and instructing at LEA, I got the opportunity to fly tours in EC 130s and AS 350's in the Grand Canyon. Those experiences prepared me for the 2020 fire season, where I am now fighting fire in Central Oregon."

**TORI PALMER,**  
HELICOPTER PILOT, HELICOPTERS EXPRESS

# GET TO KNOW OUR HELICOPTER FLEET



**OUR AIRCRAFT ARE SELECTED FOR SAFETY, RELIABILITY, AND FLIGHT PROGRESSION, WHETHER IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY IN THE COCKPIT OR YOU'RE A CAREER PILOT.**

The two-seat Robinson R22 is a proven workhorse – the most popular airframe used in flight schools worldwide. Operating cost plus maneuverability make this airframe our primary platform for Private, Commercial, and Flight Instructor training.

The four-seat Robinson R44s are highperforming, reliable, and easy to maintain. Because of their increased stability and range, we use the R44 for instrument, mountain, long line, and NVG training courses.

The Bell 206 series are flexible, allpurpose helicopters that comfortably seat 3-5 passengers. We use these aircraft for tours as well as our turbine transition, long line, and mountain courses.

LEFA also offers a state-of-the-art FRASCA AATD R44 simulator. Students expand on maneuver techniques, emergency procedures, and can gain up to 40% of the experience required for an FAA instrument rating at a fraction of the cost.

# ADVANCED COURSES

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Leading Edge Flight Academy offers FAA-approved courses to further your aviation career, proficiency training and add-ons for all ratings.

## **MOUNTAIN FLYING OPERATIONS**

Learn the unique aspects of mountain flying at the base of the Cascade Mountains, including meteorology, terrain, and pilot skills required to fly and operate safely in mountainous conditions. During these unique helicopter flight lessons, we offer real-world application of ridgeline, pinnacle, confined area, and high density altitude operations.

## **EXTERNAL LOAD OPERATIONS**

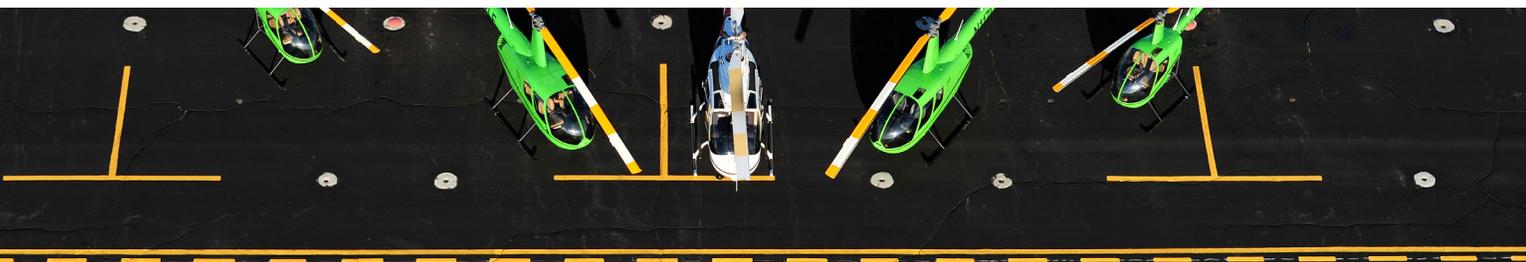
Gain sought-after external load operations skills. Taught by our experienced utility pilots using our Bell 206 series and Robinson R-44 helicopters, you'll obtain the knowledge and skills required to operate with an external load, including the use of long lines, belly hooks and buckets.

## **NIGHT VISION GOGGLE (NVG) TRAINING**

An FAA-approved NVG course that prepares you for the advanced requirements of today's commercial operators. We provide multiple levels of NVG training, including initial qualification, instructor endorsement, and recurrent training.

## **TURBINE TRANSITION COURSE**

Expand your piloting expertise by gaining the ability to operate turbine aircraft. You'll train in the 206 B3 and L3 models to learn the specific operating parameters of turbinepowered helicopters. This course focuses on the systems, basic flying maneuvers, and emergency procedures in a turbine helicopter.



# BEND

# AVIATION DEGREE WITH CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND LEADING EDGE

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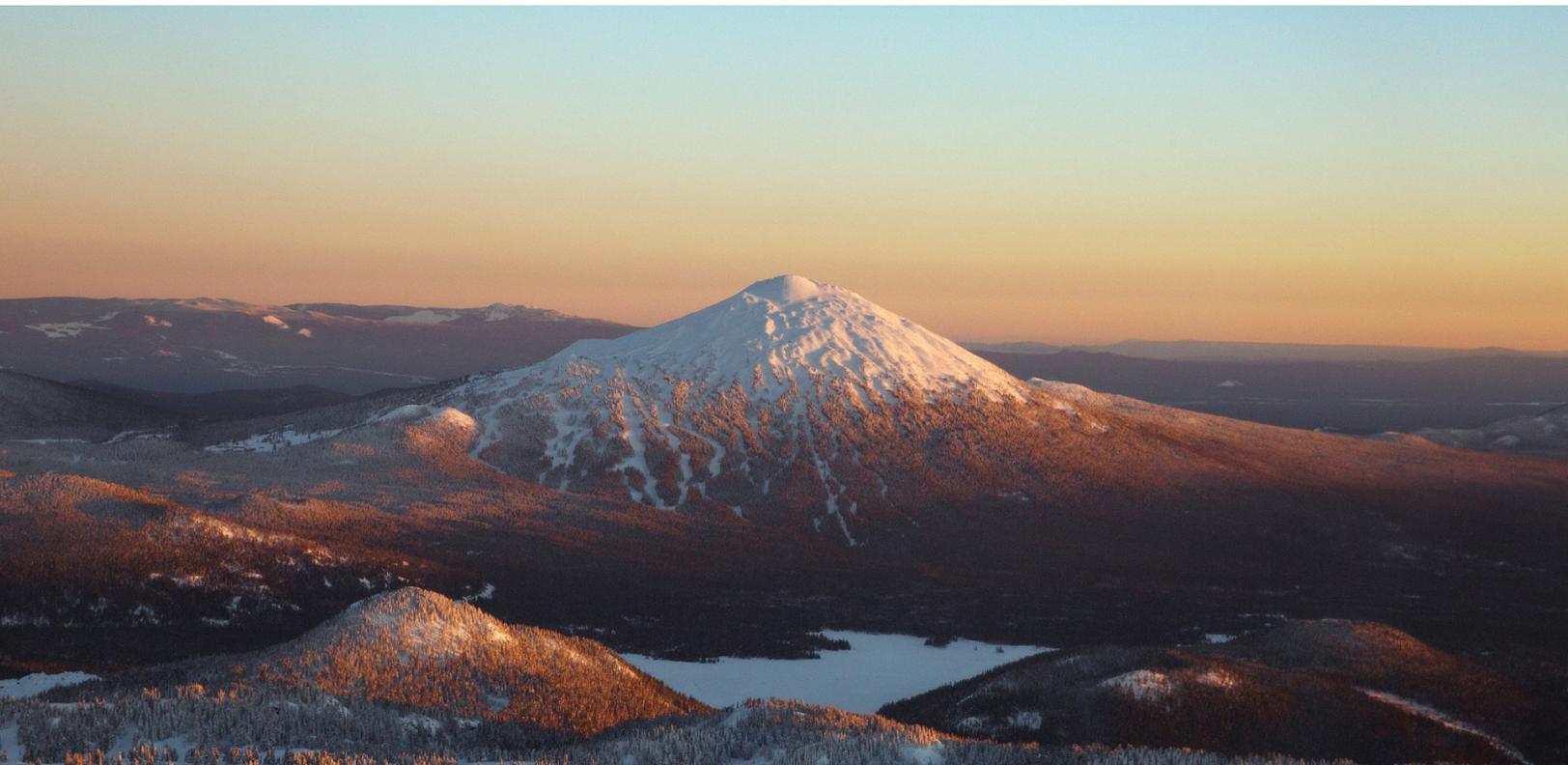
*COCC has an Aviation Degree Program separately approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs that is not affiliated with LEFA.*

Central Oregon Community College (COCC) in Bend offers a unique Aviation Program to aspiring pilots. With COCC, you'll earn your Aviation Science Degree in two years while completing your flight training at Leading Edge. As part of a more than decade-long relationship with COCC, LEFA provides the aircraft critical to the success of the COCC Aviation Program.

Together, an academic degree plus pilot training position you for success in your future employment. COCC students may be eligible for federal student grants, scholarship, and loans. Private scholarship opportunities may also be available exclusively to COCC students. Finally, student loans may be available from private lending institutions to bridge the gap between education cost and federal financial aid. **Learn more about the COCC Aviation program here.**

## **Are you a Veteran? Learn about your full qualification for Veteran Benefits**

For Veterans taking flight training through the GI Bill®/VA program, enrolling in COCC ensures that you receive complete education benefits. If you are personally paying for flight training, enrolling in the degree program gives you access to financial aid possibilities, including grants, scholarships, and student loans. **Visit the COCC Veteran's Services website to learn more.**



# VA BENEFITS

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There are many benefits programs available to eligible Veterans to assist with flight training. For complete information and steps to determine eligibility, visit the US Department of Veterans Affairs benefits page.

## CHAPTER 33: POST 9/11 GI BILL ®

### **Coverage Type #1: Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Aviation Program**

Veterans may be eligible for 100% of tuition and flight training, including the Private rating, under this G.I Bill®.

**Contact COCC for information:**

**Benefit Advising:** vetsed@cocc.edu

**Helicopter Program Information:** aviation@cocc.edu

**Airplane program information:** aviation@cocc.edu

COCC has an aviation degree program separately approved by the department of veteran affairs. This program is not affiliated with Leading Edge Flight Academy.

### **Coverage Type #2: Direct with Leading Edge Flight Academy (LEFA)**

Veterans may be eligible for annual funds to pay for the cost of flight training. These funds may be applied toward the following ratings: Instrument, Commercial, Certified Flight Instruction (CFI), Certified Flight Instrument Instruction (CFII) and some advanced/add-on courses. These benefits will not pay for any part of your Private rating.

**Contact Leading Edge Admissions for information on the post 9/11 or other benefits:**

launch@flybend.com

(541) 383-8825

# DIRECT FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS



## SALLIE MAE® AIRLINE CAREER LOAN

Sallie Mae® is proud to offer Leading Edge Flight Academy students enrolled in the Professional Pilot Program, the Sallie Mae® Airline Career Loan to cover pilot training costs. The Sallie Mae® Airline Career Loan can be used for all school-certified expenses.. For more information, visit <https://www.salliemae.com/flightschool/60957100>.

### *Borrow Responsibly*

*We encourage students and families to start with savings, grants, scholarships, and federal student loans to pay for college. Students and families should evaluate all anticipated monthly loan payments, and how much the student expects to earn in the future, before considering a private student loan.*

*This loan is for undergraduate students at participating degree-granting schools. Students who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents must reside in the U.S., attend a participating school in the U.S., apply with a creditworthy cosigner (who must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident) and provide an unexpired government-issued photo ID to verify their identity. Applications are subject to a requested minimum loan amount of \$1,000.*

*Current credit and other eligibility criteria apply.*



## MERITIZE® LENDING

Leading Edge Flight Academy has partnered with the Meritize Platform to provide our students with financing options to fund their training. With a Meritize loan, you can get credit for your merit, and potentially improve your loan options by sharing your academic history or military background. If approved, full deferment during school is available for certain products.\*

*\*Meritize Lending, LLC, NMLS ID 1661035 (NMLS Consumer Access <https://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org>) Meritize Financial, Inc. NMLS ID 1986399 (NMLS Consumer Access <https://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org>)*

*Terms and Conditions apply. Meritize branded loan products are educational loans issued by Meritize Lending, LLC\*\*. Meritize reserves the right to modify or discontinue products and benefits at any time without notice. To qualify, a borrower must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or hold an Employment Authorization Document and meet Meritize's underwriting requirements. If approved for a loan the actual loan amount, term, payment, and APR amount of loan that a customer qualifies for may vary based on credit determination, state law and other factors. Meritize does not warrant any claims made herein, including, but not limited to, gaining admission to a program, concerning the quality or financial strength of any educational institution, securing funding or obtaining employment. Our final loan offer may differ as a result of the school chosen and the associated cost of tuition. Not all schools are eligible for funding. Meritize does not offer educational loans in the following states: IA, IN, KY, ME, MI, ND, NV, SD, VT, WI, WV, WY, PR. All rights reserved.*

*\*\*For residents of SC, loan is made by Meritize Financial, Inc.*

# READY TO GET STARTED? HERE ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS

STUDENTS HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO LAUNCH THEIR TRAINING WITH LEFA:



## OPTION #1

Register with and attend Central Oregon Community College (COCC) while you fly. You will receive your flight ratings along with an Associates in Applied Science in Aviation.

**Contact COCC Aviation Airplane Advisor:**

[aviation@cocc.edu](mailto:aviation@cocc.edu) | 541-318-3702

You'll learn about program availability and receive a questionnaire to complete prior to advising and registration, along with a strict deadline for submission.



## OPTION #2

Enroll directly with Leading Edge Flight Academy and receive your certifications. You will earn all the flight and ground training needed to set you up for your career in aviation.

**Contact our Launch Team:**

[launch@flybend.com](mailto:launch@flybend.com) | 541-383-8825

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requires verification of citizenship prior to flight or simulator training. This requires a U.S. Passport or an original birth certificate, and a government issued ID card (e.g. driver's license).

## LEADING EDGE FLIGHT ACADEMY

# HELICOPTER PROFESSIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

HOURLY RATES		<b>*DISCLAIMER TO FIGURES BELOW</b> Totals below are based on averages. Average cost will vary based on student. Prices subject to change. Average influenced by majority of students attending COCC degree program.
Robinson 22 (R22)	\$340	
Robinson 44 (R44)	\$610	
Robinson 44 NVG	\$610	
Bell 206	\$1,020	
Frasca AATD Sim (incl. instruction)	\$225	
Flight Instruction	\$65	
Ground Instruction	\$65	

PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATION	PART 141 MINS	LEFA AVG HOURS	LEFA AVG \$ COST
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R22	30	60	\$24,300
Solo Helicopter Instruction in R22	5	5	\$1,700
Frasca AATD Simulator	-	2	\$450
Ground Instruction	35	55	\$3,575
FAA Knowledge Test	-	-	\$175
FAA Practical Test	-	-	\$1,000
<i>Average completion timeline: 6 months</i>	<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$31,200</b>

INSTRUMENT RATING	PART 141 MINS	LEFA AVG HOURS	LEFA AVG \$ COST
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44	35	35	\$23,625
Frasca AATD Simulator	-	14	\$3,150
Ground Instruction	30	40	\$2,600
FAA Knowledge Test	-	-	\$175
FAA Practical Test	-	-	\$1,000
<i>Average completion timeline: 6 months</i>	<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$30,550</b>

COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATION	PART 141 MINS	LEFA AVG HOURS †	LEFA AVG \$ COST
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R22	115	50	\$20,250
Solo Helicopter Instruction in R22	10	10	\$3,400
Ground Instruction	30	30	\$1,950
FAA Knowledge Test	-	-	\$175
FAA Practical Test	-	-	\$1,000
<i>Average completion timeline: 6 months</i>	<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$26,775</b>

\* Please see Disclaimer. Prices subject to change.

† LEFA average hours based on Part 61

## LEADING EDGE FLIGHT ACADEMY

# HELICOPTER PROFESSIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION (CFI)	PART 141 MINS	LEFA AVG HOURS †	LEFA AVG \$ COST
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R22	25	20	\$8,100
Ground Instruction	40	45	\$2,925
FAA Knowledge Test	-	-	\$350
FAA Practical Test	-	-	\$1,000
<i>Average completion timeline: 4 months</i>	<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$12,375</b>

CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR INSTRUMENT RATING (CFII)	PART 141 MINS	LEFA AVG HOURS †	LEFA AVG \$ COST
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44	15	15	\$10,125
Frasca AATD Simulator	-	6	\$1,350
Ground Instruction	15	20	\$1,300
FAA Knowledge Test	-	-	\$175
FAA Practical Test	-	-	\$1,000
<i>Average completion timeline: 2 months</i>	<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$13,950</b>

LEFA DIRECT PROFESSIONAL HELICOPTER PILOT	
Private Pilot Certification	\$31,200
Instrument Rating	\$30,550
Commercial Certification	\$26,775
<b>TOTAL Private through Commercial*</b>	<b>\$88,525</b>
Certified Flight Instructor	\$12,375
Certified Flight Instructor Instrument	\$13,950
<b>TOTAL Private through CFII**</b>	<b>\$1114,850</b>

FLIGHT INSTRUCTION
<p>To meet SFAR 73 requirements, 200 hours are needed to instruct in Robinson Helicopters. Should the combined duration of all courses fall short of the 200-hour threshold, supplementary flight time in the R22 or R44 may be scheduled to fulfill this prerequisite.</p>

\* Please see Disclaimer. Prices subject to change.

† LEFA average hours based on Part 61

# HELICOPTER PROFESSIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

## ADDITIONAL ADVANCED COURSES

Our advanced training not only promotes greater safety and confidence but also broadens your horizons, creating more career prospects by developing valuable aviation expertise that employers highly appreciate. At Leading Edge Flight Academy, we provide several avenues for our helicopter students to further enrich their skill sets:

<b>TURBINE TRANSITION</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in Bell 206	5	\$5,425
Ground Instruction	10	\$650
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$6,075</b>

<b>MOUNTAIN FLYING OPERATIONS</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST IN R44</b>	<b>COST IN BELL 206</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44 or Bell 206	10	\$6,750	\$10,850
Ground Instruction	10	\$650	\$650
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$7,400</b>	<b>\$11,500</b>

<b>EXTERNAL LOAD OPERATIONS</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST IN R44</b>	<b>COST IN BELL 206</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44 or Bell 206	15	\$10,125	\$16,275
Ground Instruction	5	\$325	\$325
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$10,450</b>	<b>\$16,600</b>

<b>AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST IN R44</b>	<b>COST IN BELL 206</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44 or Bell 206	18.8	\$12,690	\$20,398
Frasca AATD Simulator	6.2	\$1,395	\$1,395
Ground Instruction	40	\$2,600	\$2,600
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$16,685</b>	<b>\$24,393</b>

<b>NIGHT VISION GOGGLE (NVG) INITIAL</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44	9	\$6,075
Ground Instruction	6	\$390
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$6,465</b>

<b>NIGHT VISION GOGGLE (NVG) INSTRUCTOR</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST IN R44</b>	<b>COST IN BELL 206</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44 or Bell 206	5	\$3,375	\$5,425
Ground Instruction	4	\$260	\$260
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$3,635</b>	<b>\$5,685</b>

<b>NIGHT VISION GOGGLE (NVG) RECURRENT COURSE</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>COST IN R44</b>	<b>COST IN BELL 206</b>
Dual Helicopter Instruction in R44 or Bell 206	2.5	\$1,687.50	\$2,712.50
Ground Instruction	4	\$260	\$260
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>\$1,947.50</b>	<b>\$2,972.50</b>

\* Please see Disclaimer. Prices subject to change.

† LEFA average hours based on Part 61

# MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

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## OUR MISSION TO TRAIN THE BEST PILOTS IN THE WORLD STARTS WITH SAFETY.

An FAA medical certificate is a mandatory requirement for pilots to ensure they are medically fit to operate an aircraft. Professional pilots must maintain a class I or II throughout their career.

**STEP 1.** Use **MedXPress** to start your application

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**STEP 2.** Schedule an appointment with an **Aviation Medical Examiner (AME)**, who will complete the remainder of the process.

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## WE RECOMMEND...

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### DR. DANIEL SKOTTE

Epic Aircraft Main Building, 22550 Nelson Road, Bend  
541-815-1491 | [highdesertfamilymedicineaviation.com](http://highdesertfamilymedicineaviation.com)

## RESOURCES

AOPA MEDICAL HELP DESK  
800-USA-AOPA (872-2672)  
[medicalassist@aopa.org](mailto:medicalassist@aopa.org)

## MEDICAL STANDARDS



## PRACTICE QUIZ

