

REFERRAL LISTS

It's becoming increasingly difficult to find a flight instructor for every need in every part of the country. You may find the best instructor needs to be brought to you, or you must go to him or her. Be creative—you might be able to combine your flight review, your new type checkout or your next certificate or rating finish-up with a family vacation or other trip away.



That said, the best local CFIs can be found by word of mouth. If you can't find an instructor who meets your needs by asking around the airport, however, there are other places to find referrals. They include:

NAFI

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) is dedicated exclusively to “raising and maintaining the professional standing of the flight instructor in the aviation community.” The organization's Web site, www.nafinet.org, includes a “Find a NAFI Instructor” page. Input your name and location along with the instructor ratings, specialty and any additional qualifications you want or need (including NAFI Master CFI accreditation) and it will return contact information for CFIs near you meeting these criteria.

SAFE

The Society for Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE) “is a member-oriented organization of aviation educators fostering professionalism and excellence in aviation through continuing education, professional standards, and accreditation.” At the organization's Web site, www.safepilots.org, use the “Learn About Members” pull-down menu item, then the “Find a SAFE Educator” link to go to a list of links by state. Click on a state and you'll find a list of SAFE members, many with their CFI credentials and specialties listed.

MASTER INSTRUCTORS

Master Instructors LLC is another flight instructor accreditation program, providing “a national accreditation for aviation educators based on advanced professional standards and rigorous peer review.” At www.masterinstructors.org, use the “MI Program” pull-down menu, then the “Find a Master Instructor” link. This lets you download a list (in Excel or PDF) of all Master Instructor-accredited CFIs. It does not list any credentials or have any search capability to help you narrow down your search, but you can use the file's native application to find instructors meeting your geographic needs.

TYPE CLUBS

Check with the appropriate airplane owners' type club for the aircraft in which you will receive instruction. Most type clubs have some sort of flight instructor referral program and many types have regular, formal ground and flight training organizations associated with them. A complete list of airplane type clubs and contact information is available at vintageaircraft.org/type/.