

CURRENT WINGS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS VS FLIGHT REVIEWS

The requirements for the WINGS program are spelled out in Advisory Circular AC 61-91J, *WINGS—Pilot Proficiency Program*. There also is a *WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program Users Guide*. Both are available for downloading at the www.faa.gov Web site.

Under FAR 61.56(e), “a person who has...[within the preceding 24 calendar months]...satisfactorily accomplished one or more phases of an FAA-sponsored pilot proficiency award program need not accomplish the flight review required by this section.” Substituting WINGS program phase for the flight review thus acts as a partial incentive for pilots to participate in the WINGS program. However, the flight review is substantially simpler than a WINGS program phase. Consider the comparison of WINGS and existing flight review requirements in the table below.

Online Resource

Below you may find an organized list of various related links and web sites. Please select from below a category in which to browse online resources.

[Resources for Pilots](#)



[Resources for Mechanics](#)

[Resources by Type of Operation](#)

[Aircraft Accident Information](#)

Team Member Rewards

For Pilots

FAATeam industry members have discovered the importance of pilots like you who have earned a Phase of WINGS. The desire to be a safer and more proficient pilot is a significant step toward improved aviation safety. FAATeam industry members have joined in the new Team Member Rewards program to reward and recognize this step. Your participation in the voluntary, but highly recommended, WINGS + Pilot Proficiency Program is now more valuable than ever.

The FAA Safety Team expresses appreciation to FAATeam industry members who offer unique incentives to pilots and mechanics who are truly interested in aviation safety.

We especially acknowledge Aviation Insurance Company, as the cornerstone of the new Team Member Rewards program, for providing support with the official WINGS Program level pin. Three distinctive pins are available so appropriate to the Level of WINGS earned. The appropriate pin will be awarded the first time you earn that level.

Note that while the FAATeam invites all industry members to participate in the Team Member Rewards program, such participation is purely voluntary.

When you have earned a phase of WINGS, a check box will appear next to the Team Member(s) below, so that you can choose to send your contact information (name, address, email address, etc.) to Team Member(s).

For Mechanics and Technicians

FAATeam industry members have discovered the importance of mechanics and technicians like you who have earned an AOT Award. The desire to be a safer and more proficient mechanic or technician is a significant step toward improved aviation safety. FAATeam industry members have joined in the new Team Member Rewards program to reward and recognize this step. Your participation in the voluntary, but highly recommended, WINGS + Pilot Proficiency Program is now more valuable than ever.

The FAA Safety Team expresses appreciation to FAATeam industry members who offer unique incentives to pilots and mechanics who are truly interested in aviation safety.

We especially acknowledge PMAA as the issuer of the special decal for earning an AOT Award.

Note that while the FAATeam invites all industry members to participate in the Team Member Rewards program, such participation is purely voluntary.

When you have earned an AOT Award, a check box will appear next to the Team Member(s) below, so that you can choose to send your contact information (name, address, email address, etc.) to Team Member(s).

REQUIREMENT

WINGS PROGRAM

FLIGHT REVIEW

REQUIREMENT	WINGS PROGRAM	FLIGHT REVIEW
Knowledge training hours?	3-5 (Estimated completion for required three knowledge units)	1 (None for those holding flight instructor certificates)
Flight training hours?	3	1
Comprehensive knowledge subjects specified?	Yes	No (Except for Part 91)
Knowledge completion standard?	Yes (Online courses contain quizzes)	No (Only an instructor “review” of Part 91 operating rules)
Comprehensive flight proficiency areas specified?	Yes	No (At the “discretion” of the instructor giving the review)
Flight proficiency completion standard?	Yes (To PTS standards)	No (Only a “review” of maneuvers selected by instructor)

The WINGS program knowledge and flight proficiency requirements are clearly more rigorous than anything required for the flight review. Furthermore, WINGS participants can progress over multiple phases at a given level of knowledge and flight proficiency or advance to a higher level where requirements are keyed to an advanced grade of pilot certificate. Flight review requirements, while minimum standards, are nothing like it.

The WINGS program knowledge and flight proficiency requirements are supposedly keyed to address leading accident causes. These requirements for the various program levels are specified in the *WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program Users Guide*.

The core knowledge subjects can be supplemented by a wide variety of optional topics, which are specified in the users guide. The key question we need to ask is whether the WINGS program requirements are really targeted on the root causes of accidents, especially fatal accidents, or whether they merely address typically cited accident causes that may or may not be reflected in the current PTS requirements and which may or may not address the real root causes of these accidents.