



How to Get an Aviation Medical Certificate

To obtain a medical certificate you must be examined by an FAA-designated Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). As the airman you should follow these steps to apply for and obtain your medical certificate:

1. Use [MedXPress](https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/) (https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/) to complete the initial portion of the application.
2. Schedule an appointment with the examiner of your choosing (see attached list)

At your scheduled appointment, the AME will complete your medical examination and the remainder of the FAA application form. If you meet the required medical standards, the AME will issue you a medical certificate. Please remember to bring cash, check or credit as requested by the examiner.

What is a medical certificate?

Under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 1, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) defines a medical certificate as "acceptable evidence of physical fitness on a form prescribed by the Administrator." The primary goal of the airman medical certification program is to protect not only those who would exercise the privileges of a pilot certificate but also air travelers and the general public.

A person who meets FAA airman medical standards, based on a medical examination and an evaluation of medical history, is entitled to a medical certificate without restriction or limitation other than the prescribed limitation as to its duration. Individuals required to hold a medical certificate must have it in their personal possession at all times when exercising the privileges for which they are licensed.

Who must hold a Medical Certificate?

Any person exercising the privileges of any of the following certificates: airline transport pilot certificate, commercial pilot certificate, private pilot certificate, recreational pilot certificate, flight instructor certificate (when acting as pilot in command if serving as a required pilot flight crewmember), flight engineer certificate, flight navigator certificate, or student pilot certificate. People exercising private pilot privileges under BasicMed (or exercising any pilot privilege in a balloon or glider) are not required to hold a medical certificate.

What medical conditions does the FAA consider disqualifying?

The following conditions are listed in the regulations as disqualifying medical conditions; however, in many cases when the condition is adequately controlled, the FAA will issue medical certification contingent on periodic reports.

Angina pectoris

Bipolar disease

Cardiac valve replacement

Coronary heart disease that has been treated or, if untreated, that has been symptomatic or clinically significant

Diabetes mellitus requiring hypoglycemic medications

Disturbance of consciousness without satisfactory explanation of cause

Epilepsy

Heart replacement

Myocardial infarction

Permanent cardiac pacemaker

Personality disorder that is severe enough to have repeatedly manifested itself by overt acts

Psychosis

Substance abuse

Substance dependence

Transient loss of control of nervous system function(s) without satisfactory explanation of cause.

Other conditions not specifically listed in the regulations are also disqualifying. For further information refer to your Medical Examiner.

What are the minimum and maximum ages for obtaining a medical certificate?

There are no minimum or maximum ages for obtaining a medical certificate. Any applicant who is able to pass the exam may be issued a medical certificate. However, since 16 years is the minimum age for a student pilot certificate, people under 16 are unlikely to have practical use for an airman medical certificate.

What does it cost to get a medical certificate?

The FAA does not set fees for the performance of the medical exam and issuance of the medical certificate. Aviation Medical Examiners are allowed to charge the applicant appropriately, as long as it is not more than the usual fee for similar examinations for other purposes. If you are concerned about the cost of the exam, please discuss this with the doctor you are thinking about seeing. The FAA has no additional fees above what the physician charges.

Can I appeal if my application for medical certification is denied?

Yes. Section 67.409 under 14 CFR of the Federal Aviation Regulations sets forth the appeal process within the FAA for applicants who are denied medical certification.

Within 30 days after the date of the denial, you may apply for reconsideration to:

Federal Air Surgeon

Attention: Manager, Aerospace Medical Certification Division, AAM-300

Federal Aviation Administration

P.O. Box 25082

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73126

