

Commercial Pilot Study Guide

A printable checklist for the FAA written test, ACS, oral exam, and checkride — built around the current Commercial Pilot – Airplane ACS (FAA-S-ACS-7B).

Knowledge Areas Checklist

Work through each area before you move to ACS review. Check off a box only once you can explain the topic out loud, without notes.

Aerodynamics

- ☐ Lift, drag, thrust, and weight relationships
- ☐ Stalls, steep turns, and slow flight aerodynamics
- ☐ Stability, control, and load factors

Aircraft Systems

- ☐ Engine, fuel, electrical, and hydraulic systems
- ☐ Flight controls, landing gear, and propeller systems
- ☐ Complex / technically advanced aircraft systems (if applicable)

Weather

- ☐ Can decode a full METAR without a reference sheet
- ☐ Can decode a full TAF, including FM and TEMPO groups
- ☐ Thunderstorm stages: cumulus, mature, dissipating
- ☐ Wind shear and microburst recognition

Navigation

- ☐ Sectional charts and airspace classifications
- ☐ VOR and GPS navigation procedures
- ☐ Pilotage, dead reckoning, and cross-country planning

Performance

- ☐ Weight and balance calculations (by hand)
- ☐ Density altitude effects on performance
- ☐ Takeoff and landing performance charts for your aircraft

Regulations

- ☐ 14 CFR Part 61 – certification requirements (§61.129 experience)
- ☐ 14 CFR §61.133 – commercial privileges and limitations
- ☐ Common carriage vs. private carriage, and Part 119 certification
- ☐ 14 CFR Part 91 – general operating rules

Human Factors & ADM

- ☐ Risk management and hazardous attitudes
- ☐ Fatigue and situational awareness
- ☐ Can talk through a scenario-based decision out loud

Commercial Maneuvers Checklist

Use this to study the shape of each maneuver. The current Commercial Pilot – Airplane ACS is the authority on exact tolerances — confirm specifics there and with your instructor.

- ☐ Chandelles — 30° bank entry, coordinated constant-rate rollout, complete at the 180° point just above stall speed
- ☐ Lazy eights — climbing turn toward 30° bank near the 90° point, roll-out and descent back to level at the 180° point
- ☐ Steep spirals — power idle, best glide speed, 3 complete 360° turns with wind-drift correction
- ☐ Eights on pylons — flown at pivotal altitude, 30–40° bank, wingtip reference held on each pylon
- ☐ All commercial maneuvers completed no lower than 1,500 ft AGL (verify against current ACS)

Checkride Paperwork Checklist

- ☐ Logbook with all required endorsements
- ☐ Aircraft airworthiness and registration documents
- ☐ Current medical certificate (2nd class minimum for compensated flying)
- ☐ Knowledge test results (not older than the eligibility window)
- ☐ Government-issued photo ID
- ☐ Application (IACRA) completed and signed

30-Day Study Plan

Week	Focus
Week 1	Aerodynamics and aircraft systems
Week 2	Weather (METAR/TAF fluency) and navigation
Week 3	Regulations, performance calculations, human factors/ADM
Week 4	Practice questions, full ACS review, oral exam rehearsal
Final 3-5 days	Weak-area review, verbal explanations, aircraft performance charts

The Study Framework

Read → Understand → Practice → Explain → Apply. Read the handbook chapter, confirm real understanding (not just recognition), work practice questions, explain the concept out loud without notes, then connect it to an actual flight scenario. That last step is what commercial-level knowledge looks like to an examiner.

Official FAA Resources (Free)

Resource	What It's For
Commercial Pilot – Airplane ACS (FAA-S-ACS-7B)	Certification standards your examiner tests against
ACS Companion Guide (FAA-G-ACS-2)	Testing procedures and how to read the ACS
Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge	Core aeronautical knowledge, by chapter
Airplane Flying Handbook	Flight techniques and commercial maneuvers
FAR/AIM	Regulations and operating procedures

Download the current ACS and both core handbooks directly from the FAA's official handbooks and manuals page: [faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation)

Current Commercial Pilot – Airplane ACS (FAA-S-ACS-7B):
[faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/commercial_airplane_acs_7.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/commercial_airplane_acs_7.pdf)

Full guide with the written-test, oral-exam, and checkride breakdown: easygrader.net/commercial-pilot-study-guide | This checklist is a study aid, not a substitute for your ACS, instructor, or examiner.