

Academy Flight Training Center
9222 Airfield Drive
United States Air Force Academy, CO 80840



6 February 2024

USAFA Aero Club – Discovery Flights and PCSM

We do offer introductory flights, which we call "Discovery Flights". We fly quite a few of these and have seen anecdotally in recent years that 95% of the individuals who take them decide to pursue flight training here. The cost is \$225.00 for one (1) hour of flight time and one (1) hour of ground instruction before and after the flight. And that time can indeed be logged in one's logbook (we sell them for \$15.00, if a student does not have one, and we offer a free paperback logbook) toward the 40 hour minimum required by the FAA for the private pilot license (PPL).

"Discovery Flights" are in either a Cessna C-172 aircraft, or a Cessna C-182 aircraft. We fly seven (7) days a week – weather and wind permitting – with 3-hour time slots starting at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and in summer at 4:00 pm.

We do allow for an additional one person or two persons sitting in the rear seat for "Discovery Flights" if you wish, as sometimes a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child likes to ride along. The charge for a flight with the additional passenger(s) is \$275.00.

We do see some individuals take more than one Discovery Flight, to be sure before beginning a PPL training program.

When arriving for a "Discovery Flight," one can enter USAFA via either the North or South Gate. We are about 1 mile inside the South Gate on South Gate Blvd, and the entrance to Davis Airfield has a K-1 Gate barrier. There is a red button to the right of the K-1 Gate card reader just outside the driver's window. Please press the red button, and when Base Ops comes on the speaker, please state your name and destination of "Aero Club for a training flight" to the speaker. The barrier will be raised for you, and you can proceed about 2/3 mile on the two-lane road to the sign stating, "Fire Station 3" and "Aero Club". We share the parking lot with the adjacent fire station. If Base Ops is not working – after 3:00 pm on some weekdays and on some weekends – please call our office at 719-333-4542 or your scheduled flight instructor's cell phone to be let through the K-1 Gate.

In addition, USAFA Cadets can apply Discovery Flight hours toward their PCSM time. Many USAFA cadets fly and build PCSM (Pilot Candidate Selection Method) hours, prior to UPT (USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training). Some cadets acquire as many as 10 or 20 flight hours (FH), and some as few as 2-4 FH, to make themselves more competitive for the pilot selection boards for UPT.

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