

Medical Certificate Guidelines

A pre-requisite to entering the Lake Area Technical College Professional Pilot program is a 2nd Class FAA Medical. However, we recommend getting a 1st Class Medical. If you choose to get a 2nd Class Medical, ask the Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) if there are any conditions he sees that would prevent you from getting a 1st Class Medical.

There are three classes of medical certificates you can get:

- 1st Class. You need this to fly at an airline.
- 2nd Class: You need this (at minimum) to get paid to fly.
- 3rd Class: Fly recreationally. You cannot be paid to fly with this medical.
- You are at the beginning of a high-cost training program to become a commercial pilot. You **NEED TO KNOW NOW** if you can pass a 1st or 2nd Class Medical. We don't want you to go through your Private Pilot and Instrument training and then be denied a medical when you get to your commercial training at the beginning of your second year.

Why do we recommend getting a 1st Class Medical?

- Most employers require a 1st Class Medical
- Even if you think you don't want a job that requires a 1st Class, we think you should keep your options open.

Steps to getting an FAA Medical

1. Find an AME and make an appointment before school starts
 - a. <https://designee.faa.gov/designeeLocator>
2. Make a MedXPress account and fill out the required information before your appointment
 - a. <https://medxpress.faa.gov/medxpress/login.aspx>

South Dakota AMEs (you can find AMEs in any state):

- Dr. Kruse – Flight Time Medical - Brookings, SD (605) 736-0035
- Dr. Bien – Avera - Brookings, SD (605) 697-9500
- Dr. Bjordahl – Avera - Milbank, SD (605) 432-4587
- Dr. Huntington – CFM - Sioux Falls, SD (605) 339-1783
- Dr. Martin – CNOS - Dakota Dunes, SD (605) 217-2667
- Dr. Ptacek – Monument Health - Sturgis, SD (605) 720-2600

If you wear corrective lenses we recommend scheduling an eye exam in the 90 days prior to getting your physical and take an FAA form 8500-7 (link below) with you to your eye appointment. Take the completed form from your eye appointment to your appointment with the Aviation Medical Examiner.
https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Form/FAA_Form_8500-7_Exp_10.31.24.pdf

If you've had eye surgery in the preceding two years, a waiver will need to be provided from your eye specialist to the Aviation Medical Examiner.

For additional questions contact Professional Fixed-Wing Pilot Training Department Supervisor Carter Gilk
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