



FAA Medical Qualification Standards

Pilots must maintain medical health standards to perform in the aviation industry. Medical certificates are designated as first-class, second-class, or third-class. Generally, first-class is designed for the airline transport pilot; second-class for the commercial pilot; and third-class for the student, recreational and private pilot. Pilot medical certificates must be obtained annually for flight. These certificates apply to both fixed-wing and rotor-wing operations. See the FAA website for a list of FAA medical examiners close to you.

Summary of Medical Standards

Distant Vision

First Class and Second Class

20/20 or better in each eye separately with or without correction.

Third Class

20/40 or better in each eye separately with or without correction.

Near Vision

All Classes

20/40 or better in each eye separately with or without correction measured at 16 inches.

Intermediate Vision

First Class and Second Class

20/40 or better in each eye separately with or without correction for 50 year olds and over measured at 32 inches.

Third Class

No specific requirements.

Color Vision

All Classes

Ability to perceive colors correctly for safe performance.

Hearing Ability

All Classes

Ability to understand a conversation in a quiet room through both ears with back turned at 6 feet away from the speaker or pass an audiometric test.

Audiology Pass

All Classes

Pass an audiometric test at above 70% with correct speech perception through one ear. Also pass a pure-tone audiometric test.

Ear/Nose/Throat

All Classes

No disease, vertigo, distortion of speech or distortion of equilibrium.

Heart Rate

All Classes

Healthy cardiac system performance. Evaluation by FAA physician final determination.

Blood Pressure

All Classes

155/95 is current maximum value.

Electrocardiogram

First Class and Second Class

Required at 35 and annually over 40.

Third Class

Not required.

Mental

All Classes

No diagnosis of psychosis, bi-polar or severe personality disorder.

Substance Abuse

All Classes

No substance abuse for previous 2 years to include alcohol, benzodiazepines, opioids, methamphetamines, etc.

Disqualifying Conditions

All Classes

Diabetes, myocardial infarction, coronary artery disease, cardiac valve replacement, heart transplant, pacemaker or internal defibrillator, epilepsy.