

# A Systems Engineering Approach to Aviation Education

# The Current Process of Flight Training Industry

# A Mantra of the Aviation Community

“With enough power you can get a barn door to fly”



# The Mantra of the Traditional Flight School



**AND**



**anyone can eventually learn how to fly**

# Path to earn a Private Pilot Certificate

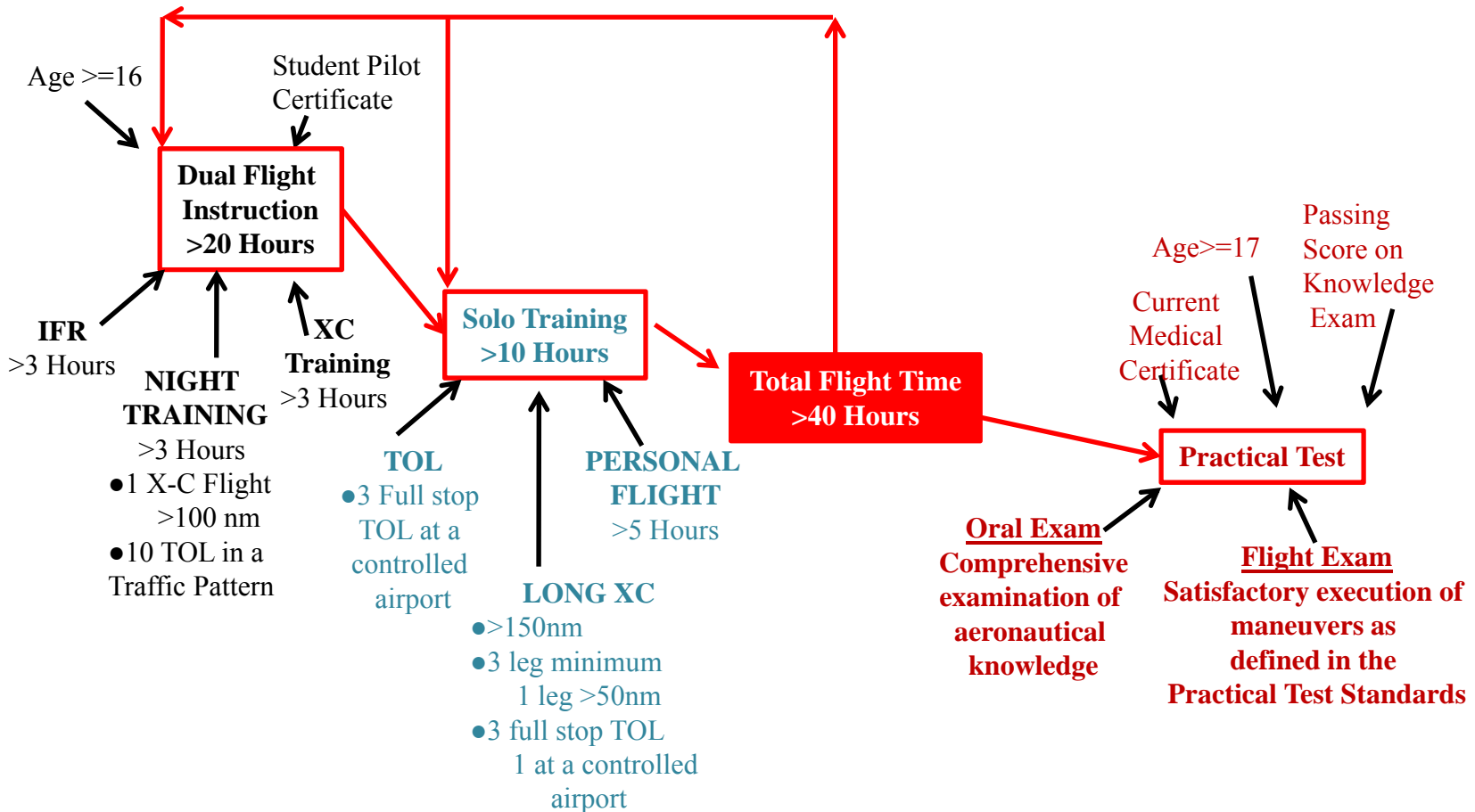
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- Requirements
- Time
- Cost
- Instruction Method/Style

# Requirements for a Pivot Pilot License

## Reference: FAR Part 61.109

### The Aviation Education Industry Standard



# Time for a Private Pilot Certificate

National Average for a student at a traditional  
flight school to earn a Private Pilot SEL  
Certificate.....

**70 HOURS!!!!!!**

# Typical Aviation Tuition and Supply Costs

AIRPLANE RENTAL	\$120/hr
INSTRUCTOR	\$35/hr
FUEL	\$4.29/gal
MEDICAL EXAM	\$100
KNOWLEDGE EXAM	\$110
GROUND SCHOOL	\$350
BOOKS/SUPPLIES	\$450

Least cost based on 70 Hour national Average:

	Hourly rate	Line Item Costs
<b>Flight elements</b>	<b>70</b>	
Airplane Rental	\$120	\$8,400
Instructor	\$35	\$7,350
Fuel	\$4.29	\$2,700
Medical Exam	\$100	\$100
Knowledge Exam	\$110	\$110
Ground School	\$350	\$350
Books and Supplies	\$450	\$450
Material Costs		<u>\$19,460</u>

**\$18,000 – \$22,000**

# INSTRUCTION METHOD UTILIZED

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## LECTURER

Osmotic Transfer  
Information Vs. Knowledge  
Rote VS. Understanding  
Book Knowledge Oriented

# SKILLS THE STUDENT ACQUIRES

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## PILOT

Responds to the aircraft

Addresses the current state of the flight

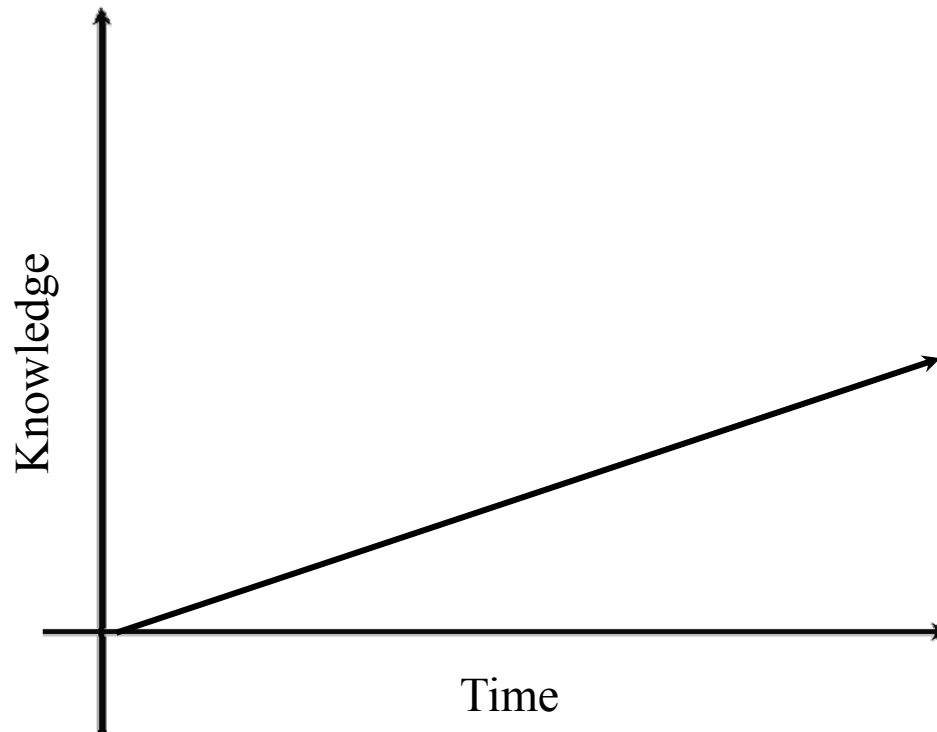
Does not perform lessons-learned evaluation

Cumulative hours – one at a time

Surprised By the Emergency

Safety Is A Result

# The Traditional Learning Curve



WHAT IS THE TREND  
OF THE  
FLIGHT TRAINING  
INDUSTRY

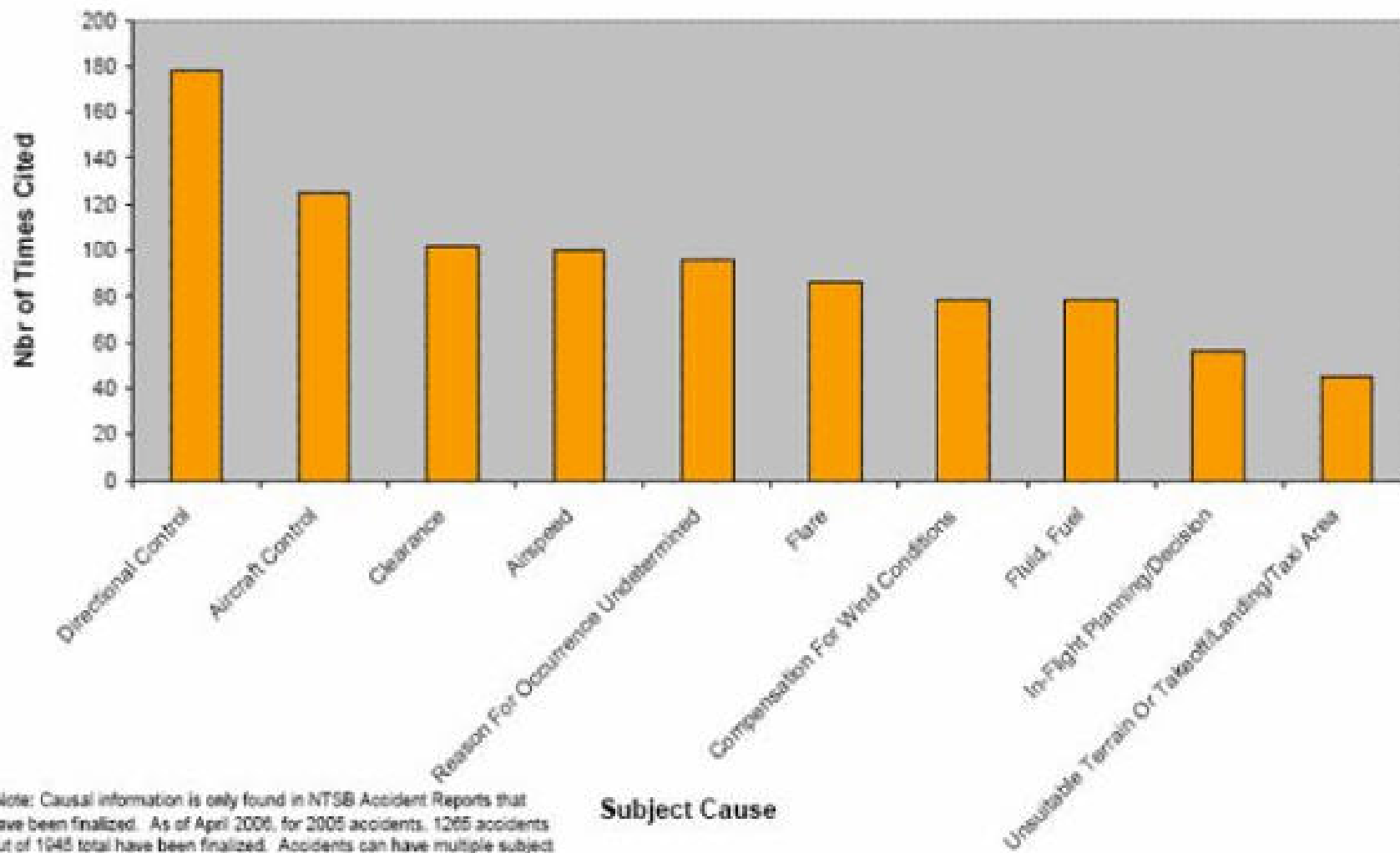
# FORMAL GROUND SCHOOL

“Not Needed”

“They’ll figure it out as they study for  
the written”

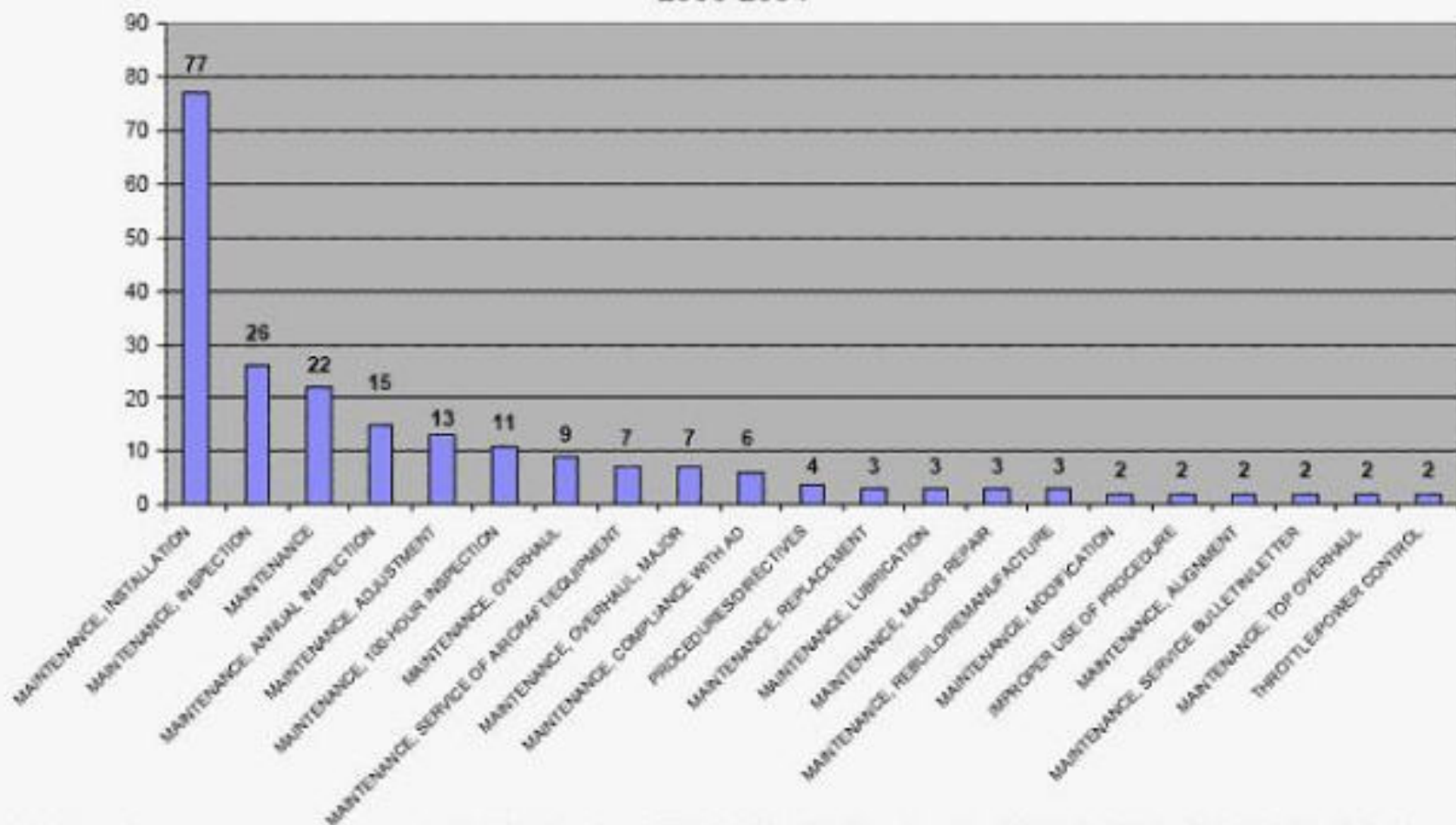
“What value does it add?”

## FAA Team Accidents Top Causes\* - National Level Jan 2005 through Dec 2005



\*Note: Causal information is only found in NTSB Accident Reports that have been finalized. As of April 2006, for 2005 accidents, 1265 accidents out of 1648 total have been finalized. Accidents can have multiple subject causes cited in the causal statement.

**FAA Team Accidents Expanded for Maintenance Causes\***  
**National Level**  
**2000-2004**



\* Subject codes with only one (1) occurrence include: AILERON, AIRCRAFT SERVICE, BRAKES (NORMAL) CIRCUIT BREAKER, CLEARANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION, GEAR EXTENSION, IMPROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT/AIRCRAFT, MAINTENANCE (DESIGN CHANGE), MAINTENANCE (RECORDKEEPING), MATERIAL DEFECT (INADEQUATE QUALITY OF MATERIAL), MATERIAL INADEQUATE, MATERIAL INADEQUATE (IMPROPER), TAXISPEED, UNSAFE/HAZARDOUS CONDITION.

Applied  
System Engineering Approach  
to reduce the costs for  
a Private Pilot License



# SUPERIOR AVIATION TRAINING

## Home of the Confident, Competent, SAFER Pilot

- Learn as you go where errors are reviewed and the 'last' scenario is repeated.
- Safety being on the ground where mistakes do not create panic
- Reduced cost
- Knowledgeable 'Airplane Commander'

# FORMAL GROUND SCHOOL

Know any Surgeons reading  
Appendectomy For Dummies?

Approaching a green cloud bank is not  
the time to learn about frontal weather

“I don’t know” is not a best response  
during a Ramp Check.

# The Superior Aviation Approach

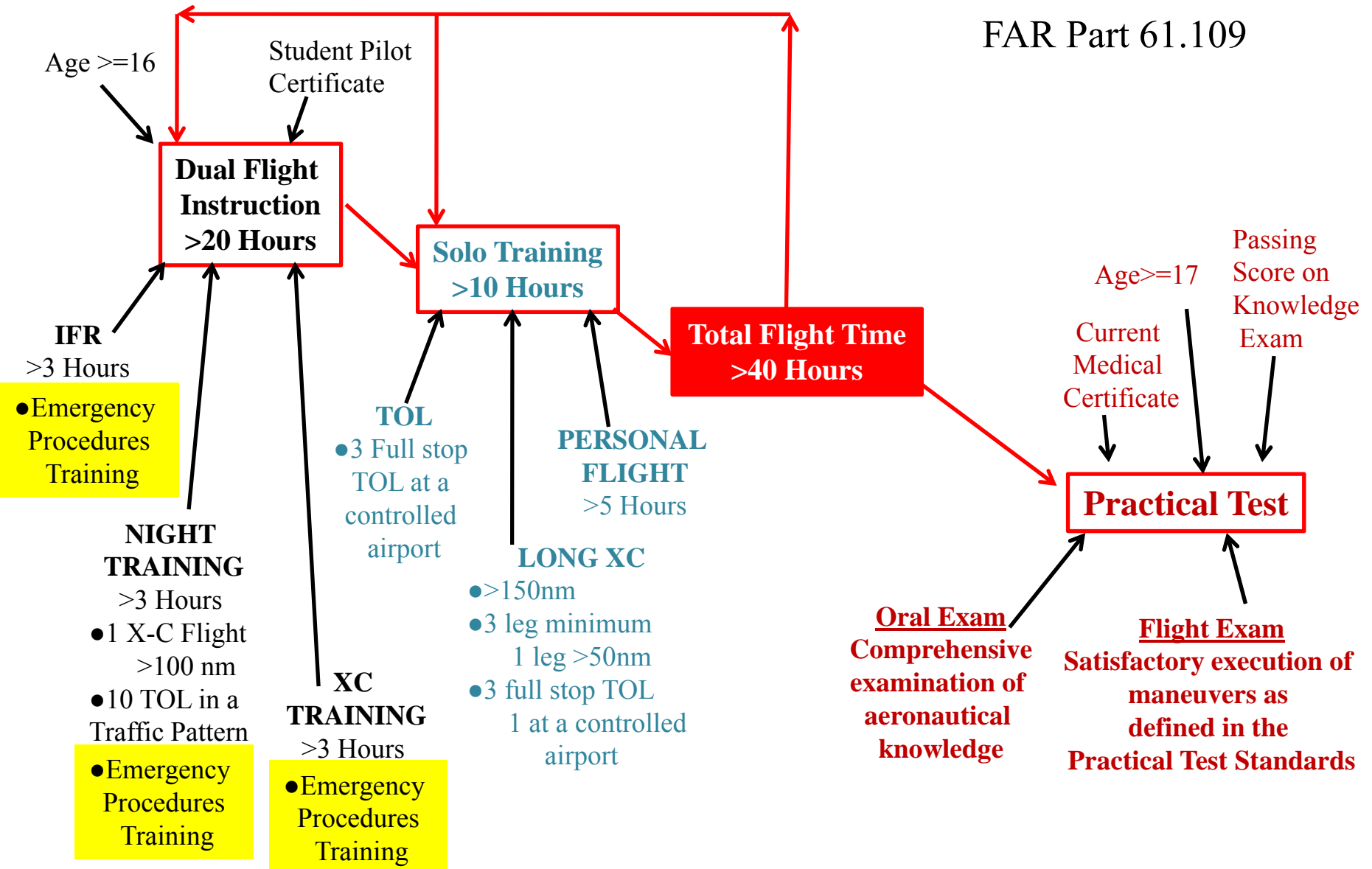
## Develops:



“A confident, competent, and safer pilot is one who has assimilated correct principles of aviation and proven this knowledge with relevant experience”

# The Superior Aviation Training Standard

FAR Part 61.109



# Typical Emergency Skills

- Engine Failure @ <600 Feet
- Electrical Failure In Flight
  - Sudden Weather Change

Time for a  
Private Pilot Certificate

**<50 HOURS!!!!!!**

Cost for a Private Pilot  
Certificate

**< \$15,000**

# INSTRUCTION METHOD UTILIZED

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## EDUCATOR

The Perpetual Kindergarten Teacher  
Always Explaining the “WHY”  
Principle Based  
Lets the Student Teach the Educator

# SKILLS THE STUDENT ACQUIRES

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## Aircraft Commander

Evaluates All Aspects of the Flight  
Flies in the “5-Minute Ahead” Zone  
Anticipates the Emergency  
Cumulative Hours = Cumulative Experience  
Safety Is Planned and Integrated

HOW DOES  
SUPERIOR AVIATION  
TRAINING  
ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION

# Superior Aviation Training Box



# Real time Flight Profile Visual Display



# Practice Operations At Any Facility



# At Any Time



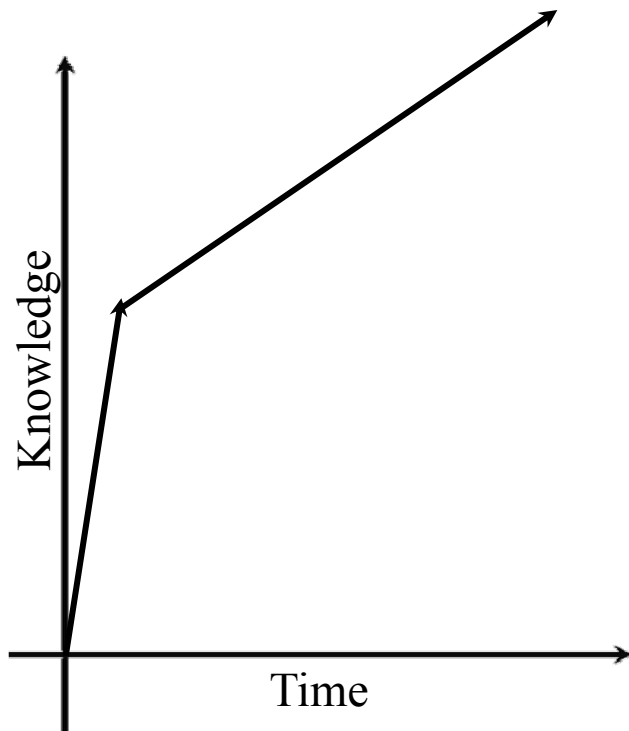
# In Any Condition



# THE VALUE OF A SIMULATOR

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## THE SUPERIOR AVIATION TRAINING LEARNING CURVE



3 to 1

The knowledge a student will acquire during a 3 hour training session in an aircraft can be achieved in one hour in a simulator

# SKILL ACQUISITION RATES

<u>SKILL</u>	<u>AIRPLANE</u>	<u>SIMULATOR</u>
TAKEOFF	6 Hours	.5 Hour
LANDING	15 Hours	6 Hours
EMERGENCIES	A Lot Of Talk	A Lot Of Sweat

# EXPLORING THE “WHY”

## TOPIC

### Traditional Student

### Superior Aviation Training Student

WHY CALCULATE GROUND SPEED

Flight Time

Death

RUNWAY WIDTH

3-Degrees

177-Degrees

POSITION HOLD

Straight Ahead

45-Degree

HOW DO AIRPLANES DO WHAT THEY DO?

Control Surface Manipulation

Pressure

BEST RATE OF CLIMB

$V_y$

$V_x$

“IF YOU CAN’T BEAT  
THE BOX YOU DON’T  
KNOW HOW TO FLY”

-A placard attached to a NASA simulator

# DC-10 Experiences A Catastrophic Failure At 37,000 Feet



285 Passengers  
Aboard

174 Survived



**BECAUSE THE FLIGHTCREW POSSESSED A  
SYSTEMS ORIENTED KNOWLEDGE AND ACTED  
ACCORDINGLY**

# SUMMARY

TIME: < 50-HOURS

COST <\$15,000

Skill Confidence

COMPETENT SAFER

Knowledgeable Aircraft Commander